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CONTENTS

18 June 1990

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

NORTHEAST ASIA

Japan

Reportage on Nakayama's U.S. Visit, Talks 1
  Talks With Baker Previewed *[KYODO]* 1
  Nakayama on Final SII Report *[KYODO]* 1
Officials on U.S. Request for Project Bonds *[KYODO]* 3
Finance Minister Rejects U.S. Spending Demand *[KYODO]* 3
  Kaifu Renews Determination *[KYODO]* 3
Firms Deny Purchasing U.S. SDI Software *[KYODO]* 4
  Legality of Purchases Claimed *[KYODO]* 4
No Accord on U.S. Nuclear 'Prior Consultation' *[KYODO]* 4
Kaifu Says Gorbachev To Visit 'Next Year' *[KYODO]* 5
  Further on Gorbachev's Visit *[KYODO]* 5
  Ministry Denies Visit Knowledge *[KYODO]* 6
Romanian Decision on Civilian Supporters Viewed *[KYODO]* 6
Mexico's President Salinas Arrives for Visit *[KYODO]* 6
  Wants Larger Japanese Role *[KYODO]* 6
  Receives Kaifu Aid Pledge *[KYODO]* 7
Kaifu Says Aide Handled Sales Under Question *[KYODO]* 8
Government Admits Difficulty of Nuclear Goal *[KYODO]* 8
Plans To Cap Carbon Dioxide Emissions by 2000 *[KYODO]* 9

Mongolia

Dzorig Interviewed on Tour of East Europe *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 10
P. Ochirbat on Comments on Open-Door Policy *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 10
MPRP Organ Comments on Election Preparations *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 10
Management Methods Undergoing Modernization *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 10
Cabinet To Create Institute of Culture, Art *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 11
Cooperative Union of Veterans Established *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 11
Ministries, Departments Participate in Trade Fair *[Ulaanbaatar International]* 11

North Korea

Paper Says Pyongyang Close to Nuclear Capability
  [Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA SUNDAY MORNING POST 17 Jun] 11
'Anti-Establishment' Body Exists in North *[Tokyo TV]* 12
Veterans Group Supports Disarmament *[KCNA]* 12
South's Economic Development Criticized *[KCNA]* 13
Meeting Welcomes South Defector to North *[KCNA]* 13
'Brutal Violation' of South Human Rights Decried *[KCNA]* 14
Daily Reveals 'Truth' Behind Kwangju Incident *[KCNA]* 15
U.S. 'Commentary' on Kwangju Attack Denounced *[KCNA]* 16
U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju Denounced *[Pyongyang Radio]* 16
U.S. 'Hell Bent' on Division, Confrontation *[KCNA]* 17
U.S. Stages 'Provocative Aerial Exercise' *[KCNA]* 18
'Aerial Warfare Exercises' in South Continue *[KCNA]* 18
Daily Urges U.S. To Respond to Overtures *[KCNA]* 18
U.S. Urged To Respond to Disarmament Proposal *[KCNA]* 19

Troop Reduction Really 'Arms Buildup' *[KCNA]* 19
Delegation of U.S. Scholars Arrive in Pyongyang *[KCNA]* 20
North Will Not Support Philippine Communists *[KYODO]* 20
Soviet Art Troupe Leader Praises North *[KCNA]* 20
New PRC Ambassador Presents Credentials *[KCNA]* 21
Performance by KPA, PLA Artistes Given *[KCNA]* 21
Radio, TV Committee Delegation Leaves for China *[KCNA]* 21
GDR Congratulates Kim Il-song on Reelection *[Pyongyang Radio]* 21
Radio VNS Denounces No-Gorbachev Summit Talk 22

South Korea

North Intends To Withdraw From Nuclear Treaty *[Seoul Radio]* 22
North 'Likely' To Sign Nuclear Safeguards Pact *[YONHAP]* 22
Paper Cited on North Nuclear Arms Development *[Seoul Radio]* 22
North Nuclear Weapon Capability To Be Verified *[Seoul Radio]* 23
No on Bringing Change to Inter-Korean Relations *[YONHAP]* 23
Editorial on Confirmed Obstinacy of North *[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Jun]* 23
Editorial Calls Change in North Inevitable *[THE KOREA HERALD 15 Jun]* 24
Hyundai Gift of Equipment Arrives in North *[THE KOREA TIMES 13 Jun]* 24
Arbatov Foresees Changes in Soviet-North Ties *[CHOSON ILBO 17 Jun]* 24
Soviet Consul General Chosen for Seoul *[YONHAP]* 25
Consul General Hopes To 'Upgrade' Soviet Ties *[THE KOREA TIMES 17 Jun]* 25
Soviets Willing To Sign Investment Accords *[YONHAP]* 26
Soviets Favor Holding Meeting in Seoul *[YONHAP]* 26
Ministry Announces Direct Mail With USSR *[THE KOREA TIMES 14 Jun]* 26
Youths To Attend Space Camp in USSR *[THE KOREA HERALD 13 Jun]* 27
Minister on Using Games To Improve China Ties *[YONHAP]* 27
Athletes Encouraged To Run Second at Asiad *[YONHAP]* 27
Poll on Anti-U.S. Movement, Political Parties *[HANGUK ILBO 9 Jun]* 27
Editorial Assails U.S. Criticism of Trade Rules *[HANGUK ILBO 16 Jun]* 28
U.S. Ambassador to Japan on Ties With North *[HANGUK ILBO 16 Jun]* 29
U.S. Puts Brakes on Vietnam Diplomatic Ties *[HANGYORE SINMUN 13 Jun]* 29
Minister Warns Japan on Improving DPRK Ties *[CHUNGANG ILBO 16 Jun]* 29
    Japan, DPRK Ties Studied *[YONHAP]* 30
South, Congo Establish Diplomatic Relations *[YONHAP]* 30
Seoul Opens Embassy in Ulaanbaatar 18 Jun *[YONHAP]* 31
DLP Scraps National Security Law Revision *[YONHAP]* 31
Bill To Prevent Abuse of Power by Military Head *[YONHAP]* 31

SOUTHEAST ASIA

Burma

Information Committee Holds 95th News Conference *[Rangoon Radio]* 33
Military Spokesman Denies Stalling Tactics *[AFP]* 33
Khin Nyunt Explains Tasks, Transfer of Power *[Rangoon Radio]* 34
Tin U Meets With Public Service Personnel *[Rangoon Radio]* 34
Karen Rebels Threaten Death to Foreigners *[AFP]* 35
Rebels Demand 'Federal Union of States' *[AFP]* 36
DAB Rebel Forces Plan Unilateral Cease-Fire *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 16 Jun]* 36

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Reportedly Will Not Withdraw GSP Status *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 37
Refugee Repatriation Talks With SRV To Begin *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 37
Officials on Trade, Investment in Vietnam *[BERNAMA]* 37
Airline To Boost Flights to Vietnam *[BERNAMA]* 37
Mahathir on Relations With Indonesia, Singapore *[Kuala Lumpur TV]* 38

Aircraft Engines To Be Serviced in Indonesia *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 14 Jun]* 38
Peaceful Solution to Kashmir Issue Urged *[Kuala Lumpur Radio]* 38
Officials Warn Against 'Sensitive' Issues *[NEW STRAITS TIMES 13 Jun]* 39

Singapore

Indonesian Air Marshal Arrives for Visit *[Singapore Radio]* 39
Indian Nationals Arrested; Heroin Seized *[AFP]* 39
Goh Chok Tong on Forthcoming Premiership *[THE STRAITS TIMES 11 Jun]* 39

Cambodia

Hun Sen Sends SNC List to Sihanouk 13 Jun *[SPK]* 40
Sihanouk 'Unable' To Name Six Representatives *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 17 Jun]* 41
Hun Sen Receives Sihanouk Letter on SNC *[SPK]* 41
Son Sann Designates Representatives to SNC *[Radio VOK]* 42
Resistance Reportedly Liberates Kompong Thom *[Radio VONADK]* 42
    Spokesman on Activity *[Bangkok BANGKOK POST 18 Jun]* 42
    Forces Reportedly Withdraw *[Radio VOK]* 43
Conflicting Claims on Control of Kompong Thom *[AFP]* 43

Indonesia

Paper Hails Outcome of Tokyo Talks on Cambodia *[MERDEKA 7 Jun]* 44
Suharto Meets With UN Refugee Commissioner *[Jakarta Radio]* 45
Alatas Calls for Solution to Refugee Problem *[AFP]* 45
Religious Group, Bank Sign Cooperation Accord *[KOMPAS 2 Jun]* 45

Laos

Chaleun Yiapaoheu Lectures on Draft Constitution 45
    Introduction *[Vientiane Radio]* 45
    Article 1 *[Vientiane Radio]* 47
    Articles 3-6 *[Vientiane Radio]* 48
    Article 7 *[Vientiane Radio]* 48
    Article 9 *[Vientiane Radio]* 49
    Article 10 *[Vientiane Radio]* 50

Philippines

Survey Shows Growing Anti-Bases Sentiment *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 16 Jun]* 50
DPRK Offers Official Ties, Nonsupport of NPA *[AFP]* 51
    'Official Talks' Opened *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 18 Jun]* 51
    Aquino Says Contacts 'Unofficial' *[AFP]* 52
Iraq, Pakistan Affirm Support on MNLF Issue *[Quezon City Radio]* 53
Japan Sets Terms for Possible Loan Package *[BUSINESS WORLD 14 Jun]* 53
Farmers Organizations Split on Aquino's Movement
  [THE MANILA CHRONICLE 16 Jun] 53
Editorial Views Kabisig as 'Call for Action' *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 13 Jun]* 54
Column Belittles Aquino's New Movement *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 13 Jun]* 54
Analysis Views Kabisig as 'Counter-Coup Weapon' *[THE MANILA CHRONICLE 14 Jun]* .. 55
Ramos Views 'Threat' From 'Left and Right' *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 7 Jun]* 56
Efforts for Return of Marcos Children Underway *[Quezon City Radio]* 57
    Manglapus on Children's Return *[Quezon City Radio-TV]* 57
Journalist Names Ramos in Kidnapping Complaint *[Manila Radio]* 57
    De Villa Forms Investigation Team *[Manila Radio]* 58
    Ramos Clarifies 'Order of Battle' *[Quezon City Radio]* 58
Air Force Tests New Italian Jet Trainers *[MANILA BULLETIN 11 Jun]* 58
Rebels in Mindanao Agree To Declare New State *[PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY 18 Jun]* 59
Confusion 'Prevails' in CPP's European Network *[Manila Radio]* 59
NPA Thanks 'Patriotic Elements' for Information *[AFP]* 60

NPA Spokesman Sets Conditions for Surrender *[PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER 13 Jun]* 60
Returnee Reveals 'Massive' NPA Tax Collection *[Quezon City Radio]* 60
Anti-Insurgency Drive in Quezon Intensified *[MANILA BULLETIN 14 Jun]* 60
Three Navy Officers Cleared of Coup Involvement *[Quezon City Radio]* 61
Balance of Payments Deficit Widens 1st Quarter *[PHILIPPINES NEWDAY 14 Jun]* 61
Column Views Reluctance of Japanese To Invest *[BUSINESS STAR 13 Jun]* 61

Thailand

Reportage on Chatchai's U.S. Visit Continues 62
  Agreement To Create Trade Panel *[BANGKOK POST 15 Jun]* 62
  Chatchai Interview at Press Club *[Bangkok Radio]* 63
  More on Press Club Session *[BANGKOK POST 17 Jun]* 63
  Chatchai Departs Washington *[Bangkok Radio]* 64
  Meeting With UN Secretary General *[BANGKOK POST 17 Jun]* 65
  Chatchai 16 Jun Interview *[Bangkok Radio]* 65
  Chawalit Invited To 'Come Back' *[Bangkok Radio]* 66
  Chatchai on U.S. Weapons Purchase *[Bangkok Radio]* 66
  Editorial on Accomplishments *[THE NATION 18 Jun]* 67
Chawalit Advisory Appointment, Successor Viewed *[BANGKOK POST 16 Jun]* 68
Chatchai Said To Plan Alliances 'Realignment' *[THE NATION 18 Jun]* 69

Vietnam

National Assembly Opens 7th Session in Hanoi *[Hanoi Radio]* 70
  15 Jun Discussion Reported *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
  16 Jun Discussion Reported *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
  18 Jun Discussion Reported *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
  People's Expectations Viewed *[Hanoi Radio]* 71
Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Press Center Meeting 72
  Installment One *[Hanoi Radio]* 72
  Installment Two *[Hanoi Radio]* 73
Philippine Foreign Affairs Official Visits *[VNA]* 75

AUSTRALASIA

Fiji

Rabuka Urges Government To Protect Economy *[Melbourne International]* 76

New Zealand

Palmer, New French Envoy Discuss Nuclear Tests *[AFP]* 76

Vanuatu

Minister Denies U.S. Drug Laundering Claim *[AFP]* 76

Japan

Reportage on Nakayama's U.S. Visit, Talks

Talks With Baker Previewed

OW1506163690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1401 GMT 15 Jun 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] San Francisco, June 15 (KYODO)—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will meet Friday morning in a fresh bid to defuse tensions over deadlocked Structural Impediments Initiative (SII) negotiations.

Some U.S. officials said the SII will top the agenda of the ministerial meeting at the Fairmont Hotel, the site of a historic summit between Presidents Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union and No Tae-u of South Korea less than two weeks ago. They said Baker will brief Nakayama on the U.S.-Soviet summit in Washington and at Camp David, and his talks with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) allies in Europe.

Nakayama in turn will explain the outcome of Cambodian peace talks held in Tokyo on June 4-5 and a series of confidence-building measures Japan is taking with respect to North Korea on the Korean peninsula and China on Cambodia.

The meeting here also is the first bilateral ministerial meeting since a Japan-U.S. summit between Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu and President George Bush in Palm Springs, California, in early March. That "summit in the desert" set the stage for Tokyo and Washington to produce a midterm report on the SII designed to restructure both economies to correct the intractable trade imbalance.

But failure to make progress in a recent SII meeting in Hawaii has prompted Baker, Trade Representative Carla Hills, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady, and three other cabinet members to send a joint letter to their Japanese counterparts in time for Baker's talks with Nakayama.

In the rare joint letter, Bush's top advisers is spelling out the key U.S. objectives in the SII exercise—a correction of the savings/investment imbalance, tighter antimonopoly regulations, speedy patent processing, a better land-use policy, a change in Japanese business practices like "keiretsu" or business groupings, and pricing mechanisms.

A senior U.S. trade official hinted that Bush himself might send a letter to Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to ask for his help in producing a "good" final SII report at the next full-fledged meeting in Tokyo on June 25-26 if the San Francisco meeting fails to break the impasse.

He said, however, the deputies to Baker, Hills, Brady, Commerce Secretary Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, and Michael Boskin, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, are divided over such highest-level political involvement partly because of Kaifu's delicate standing in his ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Another senior U.S. official, who favors such a presidential letter, complained that Japan is trying to make the final report "a xerox copy" of the interim report. He warned that a bad final report would have detrimental effects on the seven-nation economic summit in Houston, Texas, on July 9-11.

A pre-summit meeting between Kaifu and Bush is tentatively set for July 8.

Japanese officials have countered that the Kaifu cabinet is fully committed to bring about changes, as stipulated in the interim report.

Instead of focusing on the SII, Japanese Foreign Ministry officials are trying to shift the attention to Cambodia, China, the No-Gorbachev summit, the U.S.-Soviet summit, and the Houston summit. Baker is expected to personally welcome Nakayama's role in helping to stage, along with Thailand, the Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo.

Baker is meeting Nakayama, just a day after a Thai-U.S. summit between Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and Bush at the White House. Commenting on the flurry of events such as the Tokyo meeting, a senior U.S. official said, "what all this adds up to is increased momentum in the region behind a diplomatic settlement" of the Cambodian conflict.

In addition to Chatchai's trip, Nakayama is also interested in finding out what Gorbachev might have said in his meeting with Bush at Camp David on the territorial claim of Japan on Soviet-held islands off Hokkaido.

Nakayama and Baker also plan to reaffirm the commitment of their countries to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Talks, one of the key subjects for discussion at the Houston summit, along with Eastern Europe, the Soviet Union, Latin America, the Middle East, Asia, the drug [as received], and the environment.

The two will also talk about next week's celebrations in Washington for the 30th anniversary of the revised Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Japanese and U.S. officials said.

Nakayama on Final SII Report

OW1606100390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0924 GMT 16 Jun 90

[By Shiro Yoneyama]

[Text] San Francisco, June 15 KYODO—Japanese Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama predicted on Friday a final report on the Structural Impediments Initiative

(SII) talks with the United States will be ready by the Houston economic summit in early July. His remark after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker at a hotel here is dumping speculation that the two countries would be able to conclude a final report during only two days of SII talks in Tokyo on June 25-26.

Japanese officials said the two countries are determined to conclude the yearlong negotiations during the Tokyo meeting even if it is extended by a day or two. "We will complete a final SII report in Tokyo even if we are forced to extend the two-day session," a Japanese official said.

"We hope to hammer out a final report by the Houston summit" of seven major industrial nations to be held on July 9-11, Nakayama said, confirming the difficulties in narrowing differences with the U.S. over public works spending and other structural issues under the SII.

Nakayama said he delivered to Baker a letter from Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu to President George Bush in which the premier vowed to "make his utmost effort toward a final report."

Baker told reporters after three hours of talks with Nakayama on trade, political and security issues that the two countries "need a strong effort on both sides to produce an ever better final report" than an interim report, released in April. "The interim report was just that—an interim report," Baker said, adding, "the final report will, just by the very definition of it, contain some things that the interim report doesn't contain."

Top deputies to both Nakayama and Baker said at separate briefings that the two countries agreed to have a final SII report ready during their next SII meeting in Tokyo on June 25-26. But the deputies also conceded that they were not certain the two sides could meet the deadline. Other U.S. trade officials said they were still skeptical.

Nakayama said his talks with Baker on the SII were "very tough and frank" but refused to identify the contentious issues involved. Japanese officials said the issues include a U.S. request to Japan to increase infrastructure spending to 10 percent of its gross national product from the current 6 percent range.

Officials in Tokyo are mentioning the figure of 450 trillion yen over a 10-year period which, in Finance Ministry calculation, could be translated into roughly 8 percent of Japan's GNP.

Nakayama came to San Francisco, preparing to talk about less controversial aspects of the Japan-U.S. relationship than the SII aimed at eliminating structural impediments to trade and investment in the two countries.

In turning down a U.S. request to allocate 10 percent of Japan's GNP over the next 10 years, Nakayama insisted that the Japanese economy appeared to be overheating. But a senior U.S. official emphasized close "microeconomic interdependence" in seeking the removal of rigidities in the Japanese economy. The official said Japan has made "very good suggestions," including a capital gain tax cut, to strengthen the U.S. economy. He said the two leaders spent an hour of their three-hour meeting on the SII alone, giving Nakayama little time to brief Baker on recent Cambodian peace talks in Tokyo.

Nakayama acknowledged that the SII is "the biggest issue between Japan and the U.S. today."

Japanese and U.S. officials held a working-level meeting on Cambodia and other Asian issues after Baker left town for his vacation home in Pinedale, Wyoming.

Nakayama distanced his ministry and the Japanese Government from a recent report by an advisory panel to the Finance Ministry which called for maintaining a current account surplus of 2 percent of Japan's GNP to finance foreign aid and global economic growth. "That report was quite bad," the Japanese minister said when asked about U.S. reaction to the controversial report.

Baker urged Japan to participate in a group of 24 (G-24) scheme to offer economic aid to new democracies in Latin America, telling Nakayama both Tokyo and Washington "have an obligation to offer constructive international leadership as global partners." Nakayama later said Japan plans to comply with the American request.

Nakayama opened the meeting with Baker by pledging Japan's intention to maintain the mutual security treaty with the U.S., which marks its 30th anniversary on June 23. Shintaro Abe, a former foreign minister, has been named special envoy to Washington to represent Japan at a series of celebratory events.

Nakayama told Baker Japan has been calling on China to improve relations with the U.S. and other Western countries if China wishes to receive foreign aid. Baker issued a casual warning against a resumption of economic aid to China, telling Nakayama that the U.S. and Japan should discuss the issue with other members of the Group of Seven (G-7)—West Germany, France, Italy, Britain, and Canada—during the Houston summit.

Baker briefly touched on the changing political landscape in Europe, explaining to Nakayama that the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) would supplement the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).

Nakayama expressed his appreciation to the U.S. for presenting Japan's case on the "northern territories" in a recent U.S.-Soviet summit.

The two leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the successful conclusion of the Uruguay Round of multilateral trade negotiations.

Nakayama and Baker also agreed to foster an Asia-Pacific economic cooperation program, officials said.

Officials on U.S. Request for Project Bonds

OW1606044190 Tokyo KYODO in English 1334 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—The United States has urged Japan to increase the issue of project-financing government bonds to boost public spending drastically, Japanese officials said Friday.

The U.S. request came in the latest round of bilateral talks in Hawaii last month under the structural impediments initiative (SII), yearlong bilateral consultations aimed at eliminating structural barriers to trade and investment and rectifying the 49 billion dollar U.S. trade deficit with Japan in 1989, the officials told KYODO NEWS SERVICE.

According to the officials, the U.S. raised the question by saying that Tokyo should expand public works spending "without tax revenues." The officials said the U.S. request constitutes interference in Japan's domestic affairs because it would limit the Japanese Government's freedom in setting fiscal policy, besides running counter to efforts to slash outstanding government bonds to rebuild the debt-strapped national finances.

Under the weight of snowballing debt-financing government bonds issued to cover revenue shortfalls, the Finance Ministry has financed public works spending totally with project-financing bonds in recent years.

"We must stick to the idea of covering part of public works spending with tax revenues. They have no right to speak of the source of such spending," a senior ministry official said on condition of anonymity.

In the SII discussions, U.S. officials have asked Japan to boost its public works spending to 9 percent of its gross national product (GNP) over a five-year period and to 10 percent over a 10-year period. Washington says increasing public spending would create more opportunities for U.S. companies to sell goods to Japan and help reduce its massive trade deficit with Japan.

Japan has agreed in principle to increase its public works spending, but strongly rejected a U.S. request that it specify the percentage of such outlays to GNP in a final report on the SII due next month.

Finance Minister Rejects U.S. Spending Demand

OW1806055890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0535 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The U.S. demand that Japan specify its infrastructure spending over the next 10 years as a percentage of the nation's gross national product (GNP) is "out of the question," Finance Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Monday. "It is out of the question, as we have repeatedly said. We will never surrender to the U.S. pressure," Hashimoto told an ad hoc budget committee session of the House of Representatives.

The United States has demanded that Japan raise its public works spending to at least 9 percent of its GNP from the current 6.7 percent, but Japan has rejected this, saying that specifying the target for expenditures in GNP terms would deprive the government of flexibility in its budgetary policy.

The U.S. believes that more spending on public works in Japan, to which U.S. construction firms would have access, will help reduce its huge trade deficit with Japan.

Japan wants to convince the U.S. of its good intentions by showing its infrastructure investment in total amount and has already pledged to commit about 450 trillion yen to such spending over the next 10 years.

Negotiators from the two countries are due to meet in Tokyo on June 25 and 26 to produce a final report on bilateral trade talks, known as the structural impediments initiative (SII). But the path to the conclusion of the one-year talks seems thorny, given the widening difference between them about the public works spending problem, government sources said.

Kaifu Renews Determination

OW1806064390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0601 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu renewed his determination Monday to refuse to comply with a U.S. request to specify the size of Japan's 10-year public works spending program as a percentage of Japanese gross national product (GNP), officials said.

Kaifu reiterated the point during a meeting with former Foreign Minister Shintaro Abe, who is to leave Tokyo on Tuesday for a nine-day trip to the United States as a special Japanese Government envoy at events marking the 30th anniversary of the revised Japan-U.S. Security Treaty.

The size of Japan's public works spending has developed into a focal point in work to prepare a final report on the year-long Japan-U.S. structural impediments initiative (SII) talks aimed at removing structural barriers to trade and investment in each country.

In an interim report issued in April, Japan promised to specify in the final report the 10-year aggregate of public works spending. But the United States has pressed Japan to increase its public works spending to 10 percent of GNP from the current 6 percent.

Government sources said Japan will commit 420-450 trillion yen to public works spending over the 10-year period, but will not give an annual percentage of GNP as a specific target. The aggregate now contemplated would be about 8 percent of projected GNP, the sources said.

In his meeting with Abe, Kaifu promised government support for the Liberal Democratic Party plan to establish a fund to promote personnel exchange programs between Japan and the U.S.

Abe, while in the United States, will deliver a speech at a luncheon at the State Department on June 20 and meet President George Bush the following day. He will return to Tokyo on June 27.

Firms Deny Purchasing U.S. SDI Software

OW1606091290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0858 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Los Angeles, June 15 KYODO - Several major Japanese companies have purchased high-technology software related to the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) from an alleged American smuggler, sources close to the customs office here said Saturday. Ronald Hoffman, former owner of Science Application International Corp., has been arrested for smuggling the Contam, a software system to design rocket engines, the sources said.

Hoffman was arrested for handing a Contam software tape to a decoy investigator near Los Angeles International Airport and received a check for 150,000 U.S. dollars, the sources.

Hoffman allegedly sold the contam without permission to several Japanese firms, including Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Ltd., and Nissan Motor Co. for several million dollars, the sources said. Hoffman also allegedly sold the system, being used in SDI research and whose export is banned without permission, to South Africa, Israel, France, and West Germany, they said.

Officials of Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, contacted by KYODO NEWS SERVICE in Tokyo, denied involvement in the affair. "We have no information about it ... but we are certain that it is not founded," an official said.

The officials said the company imported rocket technology software from the United States in the past, but it is currently developing such software by itself.

Officials of Ishikawajima-Harima Industries also flatly denied connection with the matter, saying that the company is not engaged in development of software concerning rocket launching. They expressed concern that the affair might offend the United States and further arouse U.S. criticism of Japan's independent technology development.

Legality of Purchases Claimed

OW1806142590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1408 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Three Japanese companies admitted Monday having purchased high-technology software from an alleged American smuggler, but insisted the purchases did not violate Japanese law. Officials at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., Ishikawajima-Harima Heavy Industries Co., and Nissan Motor Co. said the purchases of Contam, a software system designed for rocket engines, were made upon approval from related government agencies. The American man involved has been arrested for allegedly sending the technology without a license.

The statement came two days after the companies denied reports that they had bought Contam from Ronald Hoffman, who was arrested in Los Angeles for allegedly smuggling that technology without approval from the U.S. State Department.

"It's a technology we can buy easily with U.S. Government approval," said an official at Mitsubishi Heavy Industries on condition of anonymity. The official and others said the purchase was done legally, but noted that they did not know whether the seller had obtained the requisite approval from the U.S. Government. "In many cases, we cannot confirm whether such approval has been obtained—and we usually don't check about it," said an official at one of the three companies, requesting anonymity.

Contam is reportedly linked to the so-called strategic defense initiative (SDI), a U.S. defense plan known as the "Star Wars" program.

No Accord on U.S. Nuclear 'Prior Consultation'

OW1606080690 Tokyo KYODO in English 1353 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—The United States never agreed to "prior consultation" with Japan on bringing nuclear weapons into Japanese ports, it was revealed Friday. The U.S. made its position clear during negotiations prior to the 1960 signing of the revised Japan-U.S. Security Treaty, Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) said.

NHK said while studying recently declassified U.S. diplomatic documents, its researchers learned that then U.S. Ambassador Douglas MacArthur II notified Japanese authorities that port calls of U.S. warships fell outside the framework of prior consultation. The Japanese Government, however, has maintained for over 30 years that it adhered to "three nonnuclear principles"—never making nuclear weapons, never possessing them, and never allowing them into the country. This has led the Japanese people to believe that U.S. ships bearing nuclear weapons would not be allowed into Japanese ports or Japanese territorial waters.

When questioned about the matter Friday, Japanese Foreign Ministry Spokesman Taizo Watanabe strongly reiterated the government's stance that there is prior consultation when an American vessel or aircraft with nuclear weapons aboard seeks to enter or pass Japanese territory. "When there are consultations, the answer is 'no'," said Watanabe, adding, "prior consultation is a solid part of the Japan-U.S. agreement." Watanabe said he hoped to investigate the matter further since he did not know if NHK's revelation was based on draft documents or on official communications with Japan.

An NHK research team made the discovery at the U.S. National Archives while poring over 25,000 items declassified by the U.S. Government this January for a documentary special on how the 1960 treaty was revised from the 1952 pact. The program is scheduled to be aired Sunday. But NHK said the team could not find documents which showed how the Japanese Government reacted to the U.S. proposal.

According to the NHK research, MacArthur dispatched a telegram to U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on October 4, 1958, immediately following the first round of negotiations to revise the original 1952 Japan-U.S. Security Treaty. The U.S. ambassador informed the secretary that he had told the Japanese Government the U.S. would treat the port call of U.S. ships as it had under the existing treaty, said NHK, which did not release the English texts of the MacArthur telegram Friday.

In another communication to the new secretary of state, Christian Herter, in January 1960, just prior to the signing of the revised accord, MacArthur supposedly asked the State Department to reconfirm the Japanese Government's understanding of the "prior consultation" stipulation.

The Americans appeared not to consider the matter of prior consultation pertinent to the treaty, while then Defense Agency Director General Munenori Akagi insisted the introduction of nuclear weapons into Japan was subject to consultations.

Since the signing of the treaty 30 years ago, the Japanese Government has held to its line that "prior consultation" was part of its agreement with the U.S. This has been seriously shaken, however, by a pair of revelations since then.

In September 1974, a retired U.S. naval officer claimed in a Congressional hearing that nuclear-powered vessels and U.S. aircraft carriers with nuclear-armed aircraft had made calls at Japanese ports. And, in 1981, former U.S. Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer said there was a verbal understanding between Japan and the U.S. that the concept of "prior consultations" did not apply to U.S. warships moving through Japanese waters or making port calls.

Kaifu Says Gorbachev To Visit 'Next Year'

OW1706103090 Tokyo KYODO in English 1005 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Atami, Shizuoka Pref., June 17 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said here Sunday that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will make a planned visit to Japan early next year. Kaifu made the revelation at a Liberal Democratic Party seminar on women's activities at Atami, Shizuoka Prefecture, on the basis of a letter he said he had received from Gorbachev.

Gorbachev formally declared at a joint press conference with U.S. President George Bush in the White House on June 3 that he would soon visit Japan. However he did not specify when he would make such a visit.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has said Gorbachev plans to visit Tokyo next year.

Further on Gorbachev's Visit

OW1706105590 Tokyo KYODO in English 1030 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Atami, Shizuoka Pref. June 17 KYODO—Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev plans to visit Japan early next year, Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu said here Sunday. Kaifu said Gorbachev had indicated his intention to make an early visit in a private letter. The prime minister did not indicate what letter he was referring to.

In late May the Foreign Ministry said visiting editor-in-chief of the Soviet Communist Party newspaper PRAVDA, Ivan Frolov, had delivered to Kaifu a message in which Gorbachev said he was "optimistic" about future relations.

Kaifu said he regards Gorbachev's planned visit as an important step toward improving relations, but he does not fully share the Soviet leader's optimism. "Japan would like to take an optimistic stance on bilateral relations, but we can't lay aside the territorial issue," Kaifu said in a speech before the 10th annual study meeting for women members of the Liberal Democratic Party.

Japan claims four small islands north of Hokkaido, occupied by the Soviet Union at the end of World War II, and is demanding their return as a precondition for signing a peace treaty.

Kaifu said he expects both the visit by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze in September and Gorbachev's visit to be "important demarcations" in bilateral relations.

Speaking to the gathering earlier in the day, LDP Secretary General Ichiro Ozawa suggested new developments in relations with the Soviet Union could happen at a "fast tempo."

"They know what we want, and we know what the Soviet Union expects from Japan," Ozawa said, indicating Japan is prepared to provide economic assistance.

Ozawa took exception to the theory that Japan "gives in" too easily to demands by the United States, as described in the controversial book "A Japan That Can Say No," co-authored by LDP Dietman Shintaro Ishihara.

"Up to now we've always said 'No,'" he said, using the example of Japan's tendency to restrict imports of high technology until Japanese companies were prepared to compete internationally. "It's time to say 'Yes' once in a while," he said. Ozawa said he also differs with Ishihara's position that America is dependent on Japanese technology.

America imports high-tech goods from Japan only because the products are reliable and of better quality, he said, not because the Americans are unable to manufacture such items by themselves. Ozawa said it is necessary for Japan to change its traditional ways of conducting business and politics to mesh better with those of the international community.

Ministry Denies Visit Knowledge

OW1806094290 Tokyo KYODO in English 0927 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—A top Foreign Ministry official said Monday the government has not received any "concrete signal" from Moscow that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev will visit Japan in the early part of 1991. The top official's remark followed the disclosure by Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Sunday that Gorbachev has indicated his intention to visit Japan early next year in a private letter to Kaifu.

The Foreign Ministry official said Kaifu has not of late received a letter from Gorbachev and the prime minister was merely expressing Japan's wish to see the visit take place as early as possible in 1991. The official added, however, that Japan sees no obstacle in the way of a visit by Gorbachev in the early part of next year.

Romanian Decision on Civilian Supporters Viewed

OW1606044390 Tokyo KYODO in English 0954 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—Japan deplored the Romanian Government's summoning of civilian supporters on Thursday to suppress antigovernment riots in Bucharest, which resulted in numerous injuries and some deaths, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Friday. "We cannot but admit that there has been an excessive use of power on the part of the Romanian authorities and we deplore this," said spokesman Taizo Watanabe in a meeting with foreign correspondents.

The spokesman said that the Romanian Government had issued a call for the formation of vigilante squads of progovernment workers, which subsequently engaged in violent acts against antigovernment protesters in Bucharest.

Watanabe called on the Romanian government to exercise maximum restraint and to resolve the current crisis through peaceful and democratic means.

Ministry sources said Romanian Ambassador to Japan Constantine Vlad visited the ministry earlier in the day to explain his government's views on the unrest in Bucharest. Vlad was quoted as saying the incident was not merely a disorder involving ordinary citizens, but an organized fascist plot to overthrow the government. The ambassador was said to have alluded to involvement by the "Iron Guard," a group of Romanian fascists which supported the policies of the Nazi's during World War II.

Meanwhile, Silviu Brucan, a noted Bucharest University professor and a leading figure in the ruling National Salvation Front which toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu in last December's revolution, will arrive in Japan on Sunday for a week-long visit. Brucan, a former Romanian ambassador to the United States, will exchange views with officials of the Foreign Ministry and meet with academic counterparts, officials said.

Brucan, who will be flying in to Tokyo from South Korea, reportedly told journalists in Seoul that there is a weak but growing dissident movement in North Korea. He reportedly said he had written to North Korean leader Kim Il-song on behalf of six such dissidents, warning Kim that he may suffer the same fate as Ceausescu if he fails to implement reforms.

Mexico's President Salinas Arrives for Visit

OW1606112890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1055 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 16 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari arrived here Saturday on the first leg of an Asia-Pacific tour which will also take him to Singapore and Australia. During his five-day stay in Japan, Salinas will be received in audience by Emperor Akihito and hold talks with Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

Wants Larger Japanese Role

OW1806081890 Tokyo KYODO in English 0751 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari began a round of meetings Monday with a call for more Japanese investment in Mexico and a larger role for Japan in Latin America. Describing Japan as a "new economic center" emerging out of the thaw in the Cold War, Salinas said his country could provide a strategic base for Japanese enterprises interested in the Latin American market.

Salinas also urged Japan to increase its political role in the international community and in Latin America specifically. "Japan can and should play a more active role in the new configuration of world balances in keeping with the magnitude of its weight in the economic world," Salinas said in a speech before parliamentarians, government officials, and business leaders.

Japan's expanding role in backing development in Latin America and assisting reconstruction in Eastern Europe should be backed by a greater presence in Latin America, Salinas said.

The Mexican president said he is seeking free trade agreements with nations and blocs, and reported on his recent negotiations for a free trade zone with the United States. But he said he is also concerned that such agreements could result in "fortresses that put a damper on international trade."

"Mexico views Japan as offering a great opportunity for mutual benefits," he said.

Salinas said Mexico is seeking technological and business know-how from Japan in return for providing Japanese companies with greater access to Latin American markets. He cited new regulations introduced since he assumed office in December 1988 as having simplified investment procedures and opened up new areas for investment. In 1989 foreign investment amounted to 2.5 billion dollars, the president said.

In the 40-minute speech at Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's official residence, Salinas thanked Japan for helping his nation overcome severe pollution problems. He closed the speech by praising Kaifu as a leader who "has won the recognition of all nations for his dynamic response to the major changes in the world." The speech preceded a meeting with Kaifu. Salinas earlier in the day attended a luncheon with Emperor Akihito.

Salinas, who arrived here Saturday, is scheduled to meet business leaders and travel to Osaka in western Japan for meetings with local business groups before closing his five-day visit Wednesday. Salinas is scheduled to visit Singapore and Australia before returning home.

Receives Kaifu Aid Pledge

OW1806135290 Tokyo KYODO in English 1242 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu on Monday promised visiting Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari that Japan will offer his country up to 69.33 billion yen in loans to combat air pollution in and around Mexico City, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Kaifu, in an hourlong meeting with Salinas at his official residence, also announced that Japan will support Mexico's bid for membership in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Council (PECC) and called on the two countries to form "a partnership across the Pacific," officials said.

To that end, officials said Kaifu and Salinas proclaimed the establishment of a new commission to study and chart a bilateral relationship toward the 21st century and agreed to upgrade and increase the frequency of government-to-government contacts.

Salinas arrived in Japan on Saturday for a five-day official visit through Wednesday. Kaifu visited Mexico last September, at which time he pledged Japanese aid to fight the chronic air pollution problem in the Mexican capital.

The 69.33 billion yen official development assistance (ODA) loan represents the first large-scale environmental project under a three-year, 300 billion yen (1.9 billion dollars) environmental aid program pledged last July by then Prime Minister Sosuke Uno at the Paris summit of seven industrialized powers. Kaifu also promised an additional ODA loan of 1.61 billion yen to a project to rehabilitate locomotives of the Mexican National Railways.

Meanwhile, he said the Export-Import Bank of Japan will provide yet another yen loan to Mexico worth 315 million dollars to finance a project by the Mexican Government-owned oil refining company to construct a new refinery for lead-free gasoline.

Salinas expressed his appreciation for the assistance and said it will engender a favorable image of Japan among the Mexican people. He said the environmental loan in particular has a "political significance" and that it illustrates Japan's commitment to safeguarding the global environment.

Kaifu said Japan will support Mexico's increased participation in Asia-Pacific organizations. He expressed support for Mexico in its hosting of a Pacific Basin Economic Council (PBEC) conference in Mexico in 1991. Kaifu also said Japan will support Mexico's bid for membership in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference (PECC).

Previously Japan has been reticent on the issue out of consideration for the position of members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which had expressed concern that their say in the regional economic body might be diluted with the introduction of new members.

PBEC is a private-sector regional grouping, while PECC groups both the private and public sectors in a single forum.

Salinas thanked Kaifu for his backing and said that the Pacific Ocean should serve to contact various continents, suggesting that regional cooperation should not be confined to the Asia-Pacific region. Salinas was believed to be alluding to Mexico's concern over being excluded from membership in the Asia-Pacific Economic Conference (APEC), a regional grouping at the governmental level which is expected to exert significant influence into the future.

Kaifu lauded the economic liberalization policies of the Salinas government and said they are highly valued by the Japanese private sector as well.

Salinas, meanwhile, assured Kaifu that his government's plan to conclude a free trade agreement with the United States will not work to the detriment of Japan. Rather, Mexico will take steps to ensure that it is open to Japan, as well as European and Latin American countries.

In order to increase the level of trade between the two countries, Kaifu said Japan is considering resumption of insurance for Japanese exports to Mexico. Insurance cover has been suspended due to the country's sluggish economy. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry is expected to make 300 million dollars available under the scheme, sources said.

Kaifu also announced Japan's intention to dispatch an economic exchange mission to Mexico in the near future.

Noting that bilateral political dialogue has not been sufficient, Kaifu said a forum for such talks should be established at a high level. Meanwhile, the foreign ministers of the two countries should meet for discussions on a regular basis, he said. Salinas concurred with the proposals and added that the foreign ministers should meet as frequently as possible.

The Mexican leader conferred upon Kaifu the order of Aztec, officials said.

Salinas will go to Singapore and Australia after he leaves Tokyo on June 20.

Meanwhile, the president's wife and three sons, who attend a private school which emphasizes Japanese studies, will remain in Japan through June 24.

Kaifu Says Aide Handled Sales Under Question

OW1806081490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0656 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu ordered an investigation into his secretary's activities Monday after a newspaper reported the aide conducted stock transactions worth some 30 million yen last August. "The matter is solely the responsibility of (Secretary Mitsuo) Ando. However, it is regrettable if it invites misunderstanding," Kaifu was quoted as saying by Chief Cabinet Secretary Misoji Sakamoto.

Kaifu was unexpectedly thrust into the prime ministership last August to help the ruling Liberal Democratic Party recover from a bribery scandal and analysts have attributed his high public popularity in part to his image as being apart from wheeler-dealer politicking.

"I told (my secretaries) to hold onto the stocks and not to sell them," Kaifu said in response to reporters inquiries about the reported sales. "Of course it is out of the question for cabinet members to engage in stock transactions, or for their secretaries to engage in activities that invite suspicion," Kaifu said.

Sakamoto said Kaifu told him he is investigating the reports, and will ask his office staff to take more care in the future.

Following the Recruit stocks-for-favors scandal last year that unseated Noboru Takeshita as prime minister, Liberal Democratic Party parliamentarians have pledged to refrain from engaging in stock transactions.

Sakamoto indicated at a regular news conference that the informal rule against stock transactions should also apply to secretaries of cabinet members. The top government spokesman said he would remind cabinet members and parliamentary vice ministers to refrain from such activities.

The mass circulation ASAHI SHIMBUN reported that Ando sold 16,000 shares of Tokyu Car Corp. and bought 8,000 shares of Meitech, a company based in Kaifu's home constituency of Aichi Prefecture that dispatches software engineers.

The newspaper said the value of the Meitech stock rose from 3,700 yen per share last fall to its current 6,200 yen and the paper calculated that sale of the stocks at present prices would reap a 20 million yen profit. It quoted Ando as saying the stocks were his own.

Government Admits Difficulty of Nuclear Goal

OW1606044690 Tokyo KYODO in English 0852 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 15 KYODO—Achieving the government-set long-term goal for increasing nuclear power generation will be a tall order, a government report admitted Friday. The report pointed to growing public apprehension about the safety of nuclear plants, which was intensified by the 1986 accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station in the Soviet Ukraine as the major obstacle to any sharp increase in nuclear power generation in Japan.

The 38-page report was prepared by the Nuclear Subcommittee of the Advisory Committee for Energy at the request of the Ministry of International Trade and Industry. It follows two other recent reports by the ministry which called for a substantial rise in the share of nuclear power in the nation's energy supply.

The Supply and Demand Subcommittee under the same advisory forum has said Japan should aim to double the share of nuclear power in its total energy supply to 16.7 percent by 2010, and the Electricity Utility Industry Council has proposed that as far as electricity is concerned, nuclear power should account for 43 percent of the total electricity supply by that date, up from 26.6 percent in 1988. These figures already represent sizable downward revisions from former government goals, but the nuclear subcommittee report said they will still be quite difficult to attain.

Meeting the targets will require the construction of some 40 nuclear plants in the next 20 years in addition to 38 now operating.

The growing opposition of residents to construction of plants in their neighborhoods is reflected in the delay between proposals to construct plants and the start of actual operations. The process now takes an average 26.8 years, compared with 7.9 years in the 1970's, the report said. And of the 12 plants now under construction, only two are being built at new sites, with the remainder being additions to existing plants, it pointed out.

Especially troubling to proponents of nuclear power is the negative shift in the attitude of the public, who were formerly relatively indifferent to nuclear issues, it said. In order to allay public misgivings toward nuclear power, the report stressed the importance of stepped-up public relations activities.

Equally indispensable are efforts to make it easier for a local community to accept a government proposal to construct a nuclear plant. It emphasized that the expectations of local communities concerning nuclear tradeoffs have changed. They now have greater hopes for more long-term favorable effects on local industries and living standards of inviting a plant rather than just short-term compensation, the report said.

Also vital for boosting the public acceptability of nuclear power is the development of reliable ways of disposing of nuclear waste. In this respect, the report urged the government to draw up an action program for a high-level disposal system for radioactive waste without delay.

Plans To Cap Carbon Dioxide Emissions by 2000

OW1806063490 Tokyo KYODO in English 0554 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Tokyo, June 18 KYODO—The Japanese Government has decided to cap carbon dioxide emissions by the year 2000 as part of its efforts under a 20-year plan to combat global warming, officials said Monday. The decision, taken by ministers concerned with environmental protection, will require an action plan which will set a target of reducing carbon dioxide emission growth to the lowest degree possible in 2000 through technological and scientific efforts aimed at reducing the greenhouse effect which causes the global environment to gradually become warmer.

The 20-year master plan, to cover 1991 to 2010, will be drawn up this fall and will also include measures to combat other gasses linked to the greenhouse effect such as methane, chlorofluorocarbons, and nitrous oxides, the officials added.

The latest move, along with the 100-year program for preventing global warming which the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) proposed in May, will testify to Japan's renewed commitment to the issue at a summit meeting of seven major industrial countries slated for early July, the officials said. The upcoming 20-year government action program will be based on an agreement reached by a gathering of environmental ministers of 69 countries held at Noordbroek, the Netherlands, last November. At that meeting, many industrial countries agreed to freeze their carbon dioxide emissions at a certain level by 2000.

The government also hopes to score some environmental-protection points in the international forum since Japan, along with the U.S., has been criticized for lack of enthusiasm in tackling the issue.

International policy coordination on global warming is being discussed mainly at the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), which is expected to come up with a final report on curbing carbon dioxide emissions in August. The U.N.'s international panel of scientists issued in May a report that said unless the amount of carbon dioxide and other harmful gasses is cut immediately by more than 60 percent, global temperatures will rise over the next century, with unforeseeable consequences.

Responding to the report, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said if other countries did their part, Britain would reduce the projected growth of its carbon dioxide emissions to stabilize them at 1990 levels by 2000.

West Germany has also proposed that Europe should cut present emissions by 25 percent by that date.

The U.S. has so far failed to make any such proposal, arguing that global warming is not a scientifically established fact.

Japan's new proposal is timed for the IPCC August report and the second meeting of environment ministers scheduled for late October to early November.

The 100-year MITI project, which the government plans to put on the table at the Houston summit, is intended to serve as a grand design for Japan's long-term environmental protection policy. Its primary focus is placed on the development of new technology to cut carbon dioxide emissions.

Sozaburo Okamatsu, director general of MITI's industrial location and environmental protection bureau, said, "The approaches of European countries to this issue, which emphasize the restriction of carbon dioxide emissions, are not effective enough considering the prospective increase of the world population. "We should aim to develop revolutionary technology for reducing carbon dioxide emissions so as to sustain enough economic growth to feed the growing world population," Okamatsu said.

The proposed technology includes space-based solar-power generation, devices to boost efficiency of electricity utilization based on superconductivity, nuclear fusion as a means of power generation, and devices to trap carbon dioxide emissions. MITI proposed the program at an international conference on environment in April sponsored by the White House, and it drew favorable comment from President George Bush and other U.S. officials.

The ministry hopes its program may bridge the differences between the U.S., which is opposed to measures that carry the risk of an economic downturn, and European countries advocating radical and immediate action to protect the world's environment.

Mongolia

Dzorig Interviewed on Tour of East Europe

OW1706102190 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Chief Coordinator of the Mongolian Democratic Association Dzorig characterized as successful his three-week tour to East European countries. He has been to the German Democratic Republic, Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia. This was the first foreign tour of the leader of the Mongolian Democratic Association, the most radical in its actions among the newly set up political organizations of Mongolia.

Mr. Dzorig told a MONTSAME AGENCY correspondent that the visit laid grounds for strengthening ties with the Free and Young Democrats of Hungary, and the GDR Christian Democrts, Civil Forum of Czechoslovakia, and Solidarity in Poland. We established contacts with the official representatives of similar movements in these countries, said Dzorig.

P. Ochirbat on Comments on Open-Door Policy

OW1506114690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Chairman of the People's Great Hural of Mongolia Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat has met with the collective of the State Committee for Information, Radio Broadcasting, and Television. During the meeting, Ochirbat said in part that a self-isolation of Mongolia from the world development did not bring any positive results to either social or economic life of Mongolia. The recently declared open-door economic policy will be the main device for getting the country out of the economic backwardness, said Ochirbat. We have assumed the first step towards this policy. This is, they passed the law on foreign investments, noted Mr. Ochirbat.

MPRP Organ Comments on Election Preparations

OW1306094490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] The central organ of the ruling Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party [MPRP] widely observes the process of preparations for the forthcoming July 29th elections to the people's hurals of all levels. It notes that the present elections are for the first time going to be held in an atmosphere of multiparty system. It reminds that all parties, unions, and any nationality living in the common home must promote the formation and development of a law- governed state. The forthcoming elections are an important political campaign and their holding demands high culture, responsibility, organization, discipline and order, and nonadmission of any pressure on the part of any party, and respect of the will of workers.

Management Methods Undergoing Modernization

OW1706140490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Station "talk" on management in Mongolia]

[Excerpts] Democratization process and open-door economic policy require a completely new system of administration and organizational production in Mongolia. The hierarchic management system, now in force, based purely on commanding methods has become obsolete and is being replaced by horizontal structures. Measures have been taken in Mongolia on administrative personnel reduction and reorganization of ministries and state committees. In a nutshell, the process of setting up an (?optimum) structure of administrative organs, of raising operativeness and efficiency of their work is under way.

For changing operational management, it is necessary to train new personnel well versed in modern technology and business matters, with a good command of foreign languages, capable to hold negotiations, tackle major production problems, and open minded. Unfortunately, until recently such competent leaders were not appreciated. The word management was alien to our vocabulary. Practically we had no idea of modern production management size.

Today when our national economy is making a shift towards the market oriented economy, experts having a good understanding of world economic laws and marketing and leadership skills in coping with arduous situations. [sentence as heard] In this respect, the United Nations assistance in training businessmen plays a significant role in developing these spheres of management in Mongolia. The activity of the United Nations Development Program, UNDP, a specialized UN organ, is directed at rendering support on the part of world community to the economic reform carried out in the Mongolian People's Republic, particularly in management sphere.

At the invitation of the Mongolian Government, a UNDP representative visited our country last October to study economic restructuring. They [as heard] paid special attention to foreign economic relations, trade, finances and budget, and to setting up of joint ventures. As a result, a Mongolia 89 project was elaborated. The cost of the project is $1,700,000, and it will be carried out with a term of three years. The Mongolian Government has assigned additional 15 million tugrik for building a hotel and a new building of the institute for improving qualification of administrators and managers which will be a basic institution for the realization of this project.

Mongolia's desire to develop mutual relations with all interested states, irrespective of ideological differences, to participate more actively in the international division of labor requires of Mongolian future managers to be on a par with their foreign colleagues. That is why the project attaches special importance to teaching English to Mongolian specialists. Without knowing foreign languages, it would be difficult to find one's way in the rapidly chaning world.

Under economic reform, there will be a greater demand for leaders who instead of giving orders are capable of stimulating workers in their search for more effective methods. This aspect of the project draws specific attention. Priority should be given to training leaders whose thinking is distinguished by originality and innovativeness.

The quest for new trends of management in 1990's is now under way in the world. In this context, our managers face the task of assimilating the best experience accumulated in the past and grasp the latest ideas in management oriented for the future. Center of market oriented economy, Western economic and English language laboratories have been set up at the institute. Almost 600 people will learn English by the time the project will be accomplished.

English language laboratories will be set up in the future in four centers throughout the country. From April the 1st 1990 with starting of the Mongolia 89 project, the institute is teaching theory of market and world economy, international trade, and marketing. Mongolia 89 project envisages technological retooling of the institute. Students will learn to operate computers. [passage omitted]

What does it mean for me to be a manager? This is a question to be answered by each student because future Mongolian businessmen will have to deal with already established international market dominated by severe competitiveness. Rapid economic progress of Asia-Pacific region, gradual shifting of the world economic centers to this part of the world open new opportunities before our specialists. [passage omitted] Such diversity of schooling would help Mongolian businessmen grasp better the laws of international market, stock exchange, etc. and be better prepared for strenuous situations. The enterprises and organizations can, for due payment, obtain all the necessary information on the world market sitution, organization of production, and marketing in a consultative center set up in the institute since the first days of the realization of the project.

Cabinet To Create Institute of Culture, Art

OW1206134490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 11 Jun 90

[Excerpt] A regular meeting of the Presidium of the Mongolian Council of Ministers has adopted a resolution on creating the Institute of Culture and Art on the basis of the Department of Art of the Ulaanbaatar Pedagogue (?Institute). The first academic year of the Monglian Institute of Culture and Art will start in September this year. [passage omitted]

Cooperative Union of Veterans Established

OW1706111490 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Another volunteer public organization, the Cooperative Union of Mongolian Veterans, was set up in Monglia. At present, about 4,300 people are engaged with the 60 veteran councils in citizen settlements of Mongolia. They contributed their share to the production of consumer goods and rendering of service to the population.

The Cooperative Union of Mongolian Veterans plays an important role in joining the efforts of labor veterans for the sake of the homeland and the people, in defending the interests and rights of pensioners, and in settling their social and other problems.

Ministries, Departments Participate in Trade Fair

OW1306100690 Ulaanbaatar International Service in English 0910 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] A traditional 18th wholesale trade fair has successfully ended in Ulaanbaatar. Taking part in the fair were about 30 ministries and departments and over 500 industrial and business organizations, and they have signed about 5,300 contracts on the prodcution and supply of consumer goods as well as production [of] technical goods. The fair was an important event in the improvement of consumer goods supply to the population.

North Korea

Paper Says Pyongyang Close to Nuclear Capability

HK1806010690 Hong Kong SOUTH CHINA SUNDAY MORNING POST in English 17 Jun 90 p 7

[By James Adams in London]

[Text] The hardline communist regime ruling North Korea is on the verge of developing nuclear weapons, according to Soviet officials. They are alarmed it could lead to increased tension on the already volatile peninsula. The Soviets have given the information to the U.S., in another example of greater co-operation between the superpowers. They claim that the regime of Mr Kim Il-song acquired considerable expertise and materials from the former regimes ruling East Germany and Romania.

They also revealed that both countries assisted South Africa in its nuclear programme, finally convincing the U.S. that Pretoria has the bomb.

Soviet officials said East Germany and Romania had sold enriched uranium and sensitive nuclear materials to North Korea and South Africa, forcing the U.S. to revise its assessment of North Korea's nuclear capability.

"The Soviet assessment was that North Korea would have nuclear weapons within six months," said one senior Pentagon source. "We think they may be a little premature, although not by much."

Until this information was handed over, the U.S. believed the North Koreans were at least five years away from possessing nuclear weapons, despite the China's [as published] assistance.

Much of the sophisticated technology may originally have come from Western companies, using the two Eastern bloc nations as conduits to North Korea and South Africa.

Despite the revelations, both South Africa and North Korea have indicated they intend to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty soon, which will mean rigorous examinations of their nuclear programmes to ensure materials are not being diverted for weapons.

But experts concede that the inspections may be too late because nuclear weapons could already have been stored. "If a country has already got the material to make bombs or has already made them, is it going to declare that to the inspectors?" asked Mr Leonard Spector, a nuclear proliferation expert. "The real problem is the stocks these countries already have, not what they might produce in the future."

The sharing of nuclear intelligence between the superpowers is a sign of the degree of Soviet concern about nuclear proliferation. The Soviets have told officials in Washington that they are particularly worried about North Korea's nuclear programme because they have little influence over Mr Kim's government.

North Korea is one of the few remaining reactionary Marxist states.

'Anti-Establishment' Body Exists in North

OW1806005890 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] In an interview with NHK last night, Silviu Brucan, a leader of the Romanian National Salvation Front and former chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, said that an anti-establishment organization already exists in North Korea. He added that some senior officials of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] are participating in it. Mr. Brucan, a scholar-diplomat from the days of the Ceaucescu government, has much experience, including that gained while serving as ambassador to the United States and to the United Nations, and through several visits to North Korea.

In the interview Mr. Brucan said that six people, comprising three members of the WPK Central Committee and three from other important posts, are at the center of the anti-establishment organization in North Korea. The existing anti-establishment organization in North Korea inlcudes such key people as scientists and engineers in addition to these people, he said.

Mr. Brucan noted that North Korea has had intimate relations with Romania since the Ceausescu government days. President Kim Il-song is wise enough to realize that, to save himself, he must introduce reforms to the country or be threatened with the possibility of being overthrown eventually if he persists in rejecting such reforms, he added.

Mr. Brucan arrived in Japan after visiting the ROK.

Veterans Group Supports Disarmament

SK1806051590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0451 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—Chon Mun-sop, chairman of the Korean Committee of Veteran Anti-Imperialist Fighters, in his statement June 17 hailed and supported the DPRK's new disarmament proposal, believing that it fully reflects the aspirations of the entire nation for peace of the country and its peaceful reunification and is a timely, patriotic and peace proposal which completely accords with the universal trend toward peace and detente.

Our party and the Government of the Republic have taken epochal peace initiatives on many occasions and took a series of practical steps of unilaterally reducing armed forces of the Korean People's Army and stopping large-scale military exercises, he said, adding:

It is regrettable that these measures have not borne a proper fruition till today owing to the wrong behaviour of the United States and the South Korean authorities.

The new disarmament proposal reflects the will of the South Korean authorities who said they are ready to negotiate with us on the matter of disarmament and the nonaggression declaration and takes into full account the will of the United States that claims it wants detente on the Korean peninsula. It is, therefore, a fair and aboveboard proposal acceptable to anyone.

He continued:

I hold that if the South Korean authorities truly want disarmament and the solution of the non-aggression question, they should affirmatively respond to our new disarmament proposal with a sincere attitude, not putting this or that pretext, and take the road of drastic phased disarmament.

If the United States, too, wants detente and peace on the Korean peninsula and has the willingness to improve the DPRK-U.S. relations, it should come out to the DPRK-U.S. talks with an earnest attitude to practically resolve the Korean question.

I call upon all the Koreans in the North and the South and overseas to fully support our new disarmament proposal and turn out in the nationwide struggle for its realization.

I express the expectation and conviction that the justice- and peace-loving people of the world will as ever extend firm solidarity to the just cause of our people to realize arms cut on the Korean peninsula and achieve peace of the country and its peaceful reunification.

South's Economic Development Criticized

SK1606000990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 15 (KCNA)—The South Korean puppet clique are quite noisy in advertising the "opening," "growth" and "development" of the economy.

Meanwhile, the U.S. imperialists and the Japanese reactionaries ridiculously assert that South Korea is "on the way to an economic power" with its economy "grown" and "developed" and that the puppets would be their "companion" and "rival."

A sinister intrigue is lurking behind the duet trumpeting of the U.S. and Japanese masters and the South Korean puppets.

Between the master and the stooge, there can be no "companionship" and there can be only command and obedience.

South Korea is a colony of the U.S. imperialists and the South Korean economy is a typical colonial dependent economy totally bound in chain to the monopoly capital of the United States and Japan.

That the puppet clique gained "experience" by "opening" the South Korean economy means that it has converted the economy into a lop-sided export-oriented economy which cannot survive a single day without depending on the U.S. and Japanese monopolies in capital, technology, materials and market and a subcontract economy subordinate to foreign transnational corporations.

South Korea's foreign debts were all but equal to its "gross national product" in 1985.

South Korea has become a "kingdom of debt" and "kingdom of foreign capital."

The puppets have left the South Korean economy to the tender mercy of transnational corporations of the United States, Japan and other countries.

The U.S. and Japanese transnational corporations now have 2,800 subsidiary companies and 1,360 branch offices in South Korea.

They produce goods with raw materials and assemble parts brought from their home countries by employing cheap workforce of South Korea and directly sell the products in South Korea or export them to third countries through their trade agencies scattered all over the world.

The industrial production and export in South Korea are carried out entirely by foreign transnational corporations including loan companies and direct investment companies. Therefore, they cannot be an index of "growth" and "development."

According to data available, the proportion of the U.S. and Japanese transnational corporations in the export market of South Korea was 55.7 percent and their proportion in value exceeded 70 percent in 1986.

U.S. and Japanese transnational corporations stretch their tentacles also to the banking of South Korea.

They had 28 branches and 15 offices in South Korea in late May 1988.

The branches in South Korea engage in financial support to the U.S. and Japanese transnational corporations, loaning and credit of foreign currencies to comprador and "government"-controlled enterprises, capital transaction and purchase of stocks, thus tightening control on the finance and, furthermore, the economy of South Korea as a whole.

South Korea owed them 40,700 million dollars as of late June 1988.

The rapidly fattening comprador businesses of South Korea subsist without exception on the loans granted by the South Korean branches of the U.S. and Japanese transnational banks.

According to data, the proportion of the home capital is no more than 1.5 percent in the Hyundai group, ten percent in the Daewoo group and 15 percent in the Samsung and Lucky groups.

This shows that the South Korean economy has turned into a dependent economy relying on foreign loans and capital, which can do nothing without the permission of the U.S. and Japanese monopolies.

The advertisement of the U.S. and Japanese reactionaries and the puppet clique about the "growth" and "development" of the South Korean economy is aimed at making a breakthroug in the creation of "two Koreas."

It is the U.S. imperialists' invariable aggressive policy on Korea to freeze the division of Korea, create "two Koreas" and keep hold on South Korea permanently as their colony, military base and strategic foothold. This is why the U.S. imperialists are trying to paint South Korea as an "independent state" with an economic foundation.

It is ridiculous to expect or try to get something from the colonial export-oriented economy of South Korea which is entirely subordinate to the capital of the suzerain states, the U.S. and Japan, in the whole course of reproduction ranging from production to circulation.

Meeting Welcomes South Defector to North

SK1306104690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1020 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 13 (KCNA)— A Pyongyang mass meeting was held today in welcome of Kang Hon-ku who was a trade official and an accountant of the South Korean Marine Trading Co. Ltd. Before coming over to the northern half of Korea some time ago.

At the meeting Kang Hon-ku was awarded an order and a large sum of monetary prize and presented with several souvenirs.

Addressing the meeting, Sim Song-kyong, vice-chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal Administration and Economic Guidance Committee, on behalf of the Pyongyang citizens, welcomed Kang Hon-ku who broke with the cursed South Korean society and came over to the northern half of the country.

In his reply Kang Hon-ku said he left the South where his parents and younger brothers and sisters live and came to the socialist North because he could no longer live in the society under the U.S. colonial military fascist rule, the rotten society where the rich get richer and the poor poorer.

He said what impressed him most in Pyongyang was that the national identity has been established thoroughly in the North.

"Once the party is determined, we will carry anything out!" and "Let us live our own way!" are slogans embodying the self-reliant spirit to do everything with the nation's own viewpoint and strength without outside interference, he noted, and continued:

The people in the North are building socialism on the basis of chuche in the unshakable spirit of self-reliance, closely rallied behind respected President Kim Il-song and the dear leader Mr. Kim Chong-il.

The students and people in the South like and support the socialism of the North which does not waver at all no matter which way the wind may blow.

The South under the occupation of U.S. troops is dependent on the United States politically, economically, culturally and militarily and can do nothing with its own view. South Korea is such a colony that even the "president" must be approved by the United States. The United States is inflicting immeasurable misfortunes and sufferings on the South Korean people.

This being the situation, the popular feelings in the South are drawn to the North. The working masses deeply revere respected President Kim Il-song and dear Mr. Kim Chong-il as the illustrious leaders of the nation.

'Brutal Violation' of South Human Rights Decried

SK1606103590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1005 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 16 (KCNA)—The Central Committee of the South Korean National Democratic Front (Hanminjon) published a white paper June 8 exposing the brutal violation of human rights by the No Tae-u military gang, according to radio Voice of National Salvation.

The white paper notes that the violation of human rights by No Tae-u over the past three years after his "June 29 commitments to democracy" surpasses by far that in the days of the notorious "Yusin" dictatorship and "Fifth Republic" fascism in cruelty, craftiness and brutality of its method.

No Tae-u has inherited, revised for the worse or replenished the preceding evil laws and their poisonous articles under the cloak of "reform of the law" and put fresh muscles into the fascist violent tools behind the smokescreen of the restructuring of the system.

After the "June 29 declaration" the No Tae-u group fabricated the present "Constitution" and preserved or revised for the worse some 5,000 kinds of evil laws enforced by the preceding dictators, every article of which is designed to challenge and trample down democracy and human rights.

The "National Security Law" in particular is the worst law that codifies the suppression of people's freedom and human rights.

After his assumption of office No Tae-u has sharply reinforced the repressive forces for the infringement on and violation of human rights.

The traitor took steps to increase the function of the "Security Planning Board" which has earned itself ill fame for its brutal suppression of human rights and has turned it into "a state within the state" and "a government above the government" with more than 20,000 operatives and over 400,000 field agents.

The police force which was 50,000 strong in the last days of the "Yusin" dictatorship and 130,000 in the closing years of the "Fifth Republic" dictatorship has grown into a corpulent violent force with more than 150,000 police and over 300,000 police assistants.

The "ROK Army" nearly one million strong has its forces in main areas of South Korea as a tool stifling the people's anti-"government" struggle.

Under the "Sixth Republic" the press is gagged and the suppression of those calling for the freedom of reporting truth and democratisation of the press has been intensified as never before.

On April 30 some 2,000-strong riot police were thrown on to the scene of sit-in strike of the employees of the "Korea Broadcasting System" (KBS) who were angered at the authorities' moves to place the press under their control and arrested 330 of them.

Last year the No group arrested a greater number of publishers than in the period of the "Fifth Republic" dictatorship. It also registered original texts of North-published books, books on the chuche idea and other progressive publications as "seditious books," and raided and ransacked 307 publishing houses and bookstores and seized 10,000 volumes of books including "Kim Il-song Selected Works" in the first week of April.

The No group, in a bid to stamp out the students' struggle, mobilized a total of 128,694 policemen in ten months when Yim Chong-sok, the then chairman of the "National Council of Student Representatives", was sought, setting ten million won on his head and promising them a special promotion of two ranks. In this they arrested 100 patriotic students including Yim Chong-sok.

The No Tae-u group has brutally suppressed even the struggle of the workers for existence and freedom.

In April it launched a "scorched-earth operation" with the mobilization of a 10,000-strong police force on the ground, in the air and the sea against the struggle of workers of the Hyundai Heavy Industries demanding the release of the arrested union leaders and the implementation of the agreements, and walked off 600 of them. In March last year, it mobilized even helicopters and warships to put down their sit-in strikes and hurled 14,000 police of 115 companies on to the scene.

The No group has answered the peasants' struggle with tear gas barrage, arrest and detention.

The No Tae-u fascist group has labelled 126 dissident, religious, academic and workers' organizations as "leftist organizations profitting the enemy" and more than 200,000 people as "leftist forces" and constantly shadowed, watched, arrested and detained them by setting all the repressive forces in motion.

Worse still, it has brutally persecuted Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, Yim Su-kyong and Father Mun Kyu-hyon, patriots and messengers of national reunification, as "pro-communists."

South Korea is a graveyard of human destruction where illegal arrest, brutal torture and persecution and beastly terrorism and murder prevail.

The daily average number of detainees was 1.6 during the period of the "Fifth Republic" dictatorship. But it jumped to 2.13 in 1988, the first year of the "Sixth Republic", and 5.7 in 1989 when the "security-oriented politics" continued.

The charges and penalties imposed on political prisoners are faked up by tortures.

The murder of Yi Nae-chang, chairman of the General Student Council of the Ansong branch of Chungang University, and Yi Chol-kyu of Choson University and the unbroken chain of incidents in which students were found dead—all these are an offspring of the brutal terrorism of the No Tae-u group of gangsters.

Holding that for the establishment of democracy and human rights the fascist dictatorship must be terminated and democratic politics be achieved, the white paper stresses that the unheard-of violation of human rights by No Tae-u the murderer is a product of direct instigation by the United States.

Daily Reveals 'Truth' Behind Kwangju Incident

SK1806104990 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0957 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—The punishment of the traitors Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u is the key to the democratization of South Korean society and the clarification of the truth behind the Kwangju incident, stresses NODONG SINMUN Monday.

The paper says in a signed article:
It is only too natural that loud voices demanding the clarification of the truth behind the Kwangju incident and the punishment of its chief culprits rang out when the South Korean students and people were waging a powerful struggle for anti-U.S. independence, anti-fascist democracy and national reunification in May around the tenth anniversary of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising.

The U.S. imperialists and the fascist clique hurled heavily armed puppet troops into Kwangju to kill upwards of 5,000 people and wound far more than ten thousand. This brutality left an indelible scar on the hearts of the South Korean people.

The clarification of the truth behind the Kwangju bloodshed is not merely aimed at investigating its circumstances, process and causes but at calling the chief culprits to account for the criminal act, throwing them into the rubbish box of history and uprooting the source of such bloodbath.

The traitor No Tae-u is one of the chief culprits who, teaming up with the traitor Chon Tu-hwan, murdered thousands of Kwangju citizens at a time, and a heinous military hooligan who knows nothing of politics and the fellow countrymen and has learned nothing but how to brandish a sword.

The criminal atrocity committed by the No Tae-u group in Kwangju cannot be concealed even if a "cenotaph" is built and a few pencestained with blood is given to the bereft families nor can the truth behind the Kwangju bloodshed be clarified even if the traitor Chon Tu-hwan is compelled to give a deceptive "testimony at the National Assembly" and something like the "law on compensation for Kwangju" is enacted.

The problem of clarifying the truth behind the Kwangju incident will be solved only when Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u, the chief culprits, are judged and punished by the people.

The South Korean people should smash the brutal fascist offensive of the military dictators with concerted efforts, taking over the fighting spirit of the heroic Kwangju popular uprising and the June popular resistance, and staunchly fight it out till the dictatorial "regime" of the "Democratic Liberal Party" is overthrown and their desire for independence, democracy and reunification is realised.

U.S. 'Commentary' on Kwangju Attack Denounced

SK1606044290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0432 GMT 16 Jun 90

["Sophism of Hard-Hit Aggressor"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists in a "commentary" of the State Department June 14 grumbled that they felt "very regrettable" about the students' surprise attack on the "American Cultural Centre" in Kwangju on June 12 and it could not but be "considered to represent the opinion of a tiny handful of people who cannot reflect the general public opinion of Kwangju". This has come under fire in NODONG SINMUN today.

The State Department's "commentary" is a sophism full of open hostile feelings against the South Korean students and people who have turned out valiantly in a righteous anti-U.S. struggle for independence and a ridiculous self-consolation and protestation of the aggressors who have been dealt one hard blow after another by the South Korean people, the news analyst says, and continues:

The surprise attack on the "American Cultural Centre" in Kwangju is not a "regrettable thing" but a righteous anti-U.S. patriotic protest which deserves the praise of the whole nation and is not an action of "a tiny handful of people" but an eruption of the pent-up resentment and wrath of the South Korean people against the U.S. imperialist aggressors who have been occupying South Korea and forcing a brutal colonial fascist rule on it for 40 odd years. It is also a deserved punishment meted out to the colonial occupiers for the crimes they have committed through the "American Cultural Centre."

The South Korean students' attack shows their unbreakable will not to allow the United States' ideological and cultural infiltration. This shows the high spirit of the South Korean people in their struggle against the idea of worshiping and fearing America and the ruinous tendency of dependence on outside forces and against the occupiers.

The U.S. imperialists must not only close the "American Cultural Centre" in Kwangju but also go home, taking along all their aggression forces, before being expelled by the South Korean people's anti-U.S. resistance.

U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju Denounced

SK1606233090 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1150 GMT 13 Jun 90

[Commentary by station commentator Kim Kyong-pok: "The Occupiers Can Never Be Safe"]

[Text] The U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju, which had been closed for more than a year, was violently attacked by youths and students as soon as it reopened.

As reported, at daybreak on 11 June, 250 university students staged a surprise demonstration by throwing firebombs and stones at the U.S. Cultural Center in Yangnim-tong, Kwangju, which had held its opening ceremonies the previous afternoon.

It was reported that due to the (?lightning) struggle of the students, the Kwangju Sobu police station's Yangnim police box near the U.S. Cultural Center and an automobile parked in front of the U.S. Cultural Center were burned.

On the day the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju was reopened, seven Choson University students held a rally on campus to oppose the reopening of the U.S. Cultural Center and to call for the ouster of Gregg, the U.S. ambassador to Seoul. Also they pledged to do all they could to make it inevitable for the U.S. Cultural Center to close again. Then they yelled, "Drive out the Yankees," and they staged violent demonstrations, fighting riot policemen who tried to suppress them.

Some 300 students at Honam University, which is situated near the newly opened U.S. Cultural Center, went up to the rooftop of a building on campus and carried out struggles by shouting anti-U.S. slogans.

It is already a known fact that a do-or-die unit has been organized to oppose the reopening of the U.S. Cultural Center and to oversee the arrest of Gregg, the U.S. ambassador to South Korea, by university students in Kwangju.

This kind of strong anti-U.S. struggle, protesting against the reopening of the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju, vividly shows the reality of South Korea, which has been turned into a heated region of anti-U.S. sentiment. This shows the fact that it is becoming more and more difficult for the U.S. imperialists to set foot in South Korea.

As is known, regarding the U.S. cultural centers harbored in South Korea, since 1980 there has not been one place where they have not been the object of struggle for attack, occupation, and arson by youths and students.

In particular, the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju—a city of resentment and resistance—was attacked, occupied, and set on fire as many as 27 times. This made it inevitable for the U.S. imperialists to temporarily close the U.S. Cultural Center because its function had been completely paralyzed since May of last year.

The U.S. imperialists reopened the U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju in a different place because of their persistent ambition to maintain their system of colonial domination by infusing the rotten Yankee culture and colonial flunkeyism into the Kwangju citizens in whatever way possible and by spying on their ideological tendency.

University students in Kwangju are claiming that the reopening of the U.S. Cultural Center is defiling the sacred democratic ground of Kwangju. Therefore, it is right that the university students resolutely oppose its reopening.

The atrocity of the Kwangju massacre, which has left a bitter grudge and a wound of resentment in the hearts of the citizens of Kwangju and the people of South Korean, was a historic tragedy brought about by the wire-pulling U.S. imperialists.

However, even though 10 years have passed, the U.S. imperialists still have not issued an apology for their grave crime of butchery, and they are avoiding responsibility through hypocritical excuses and stubbornness, thus ridiculing public opinion.

Moreover, in order to maintain the shaky colonial fascist rule in South Korea, the U.S. imperialists recently played the role of wire puller in restructuring the political system through the merger of three parties. The U.S. imperialists have urged the No Tae-u ring to move toward fascist suppression that exceeds that of the Fifth Republic, and they are openly challenging our nation's desire for peace and peaceful reunification by maintaining U.S. occupying forces in South Korea and by carrying out war maneuvers, both of which run counter to the worldwide trend of detente and disarmament.

Therefore, how can youths, students, and people seething with patriotic blood just leave these arrogant, impertinent, and brazen-faced occupiers—the colonial rulers—alone?

In a recent survey by a South Korean social institute, which randomly questioned dissidents, workers, peasants, and men of culture on how they perceive the relationship between South Korea and the United States, most of the respondents said that South Korea was a colony of the United States and that the United States was the greatest force opposing democratization.

This clearly shows that anti-U.S. sentiment is not limited to just one or two classes in South Korea but that it is a general public sentiment that runs throughout the broad masses.

If the U.S. imperialists do not face up to this kind of public sentiment in South Korea and continue to try to maintain their anachronistic colonial rule, they will meet stronger protests and ultimately will be unable to escape severe punishment.

Because of burning anti-U.S. sentiment, the South Korean people will surely drive out not only the recently reopened U.S. Cultural Center in Kwangju but all of the U.S. imperialists' colonially ruled local facilities.

U.S. 'Hell Bent' on Division, Confrontation

SK1606045890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0450 GMT 16 Jun 90

["Aggressive Ambition of U.S. Imperialism Remains Unchanged"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. House of Representatives on June 13 passed "a resolution" reconfirming the U.S. "defense commitments" to South Korea, according to a report from Washington.

Making quite a noise about fictitious "military threat from the North," the house in session that day reconfirmed U.S. "defense commitments" to the South Korean puppets on the pretext of "countering" it.

This fully reveals the invariable aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists to keep hold on South Korea as an anti-communist fort, a nuclear forward base against our Republic and other socialist countries and use it as a foothold to execute their anti-socialist strategy.

U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney on June 12 showed up at a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee and raved that the U.S. "troop reduction" program must be promoted "cautiously," alleging that "the Korean peninsula still remains one of the regions fraught with the greatest danger of war." Thus he made it plain that their much-touted "troop reduction" program is merely a crafty trick to deceive and flout the public opinion at home and abroad calling for U.S. troop pullout from South Korea and that they had no intention to withdraw their aggression forces.

This war-thirsty element went the length of blabbing that "if there is any region where the U.S. forces would some day be hurled into real action all of a sudden, it is precisely the Korean peninsula."

This tells that the U.S. imperialists are making preparations to light the train of another war of aggression in Korea and involve themselves directly in it.

At a time when we came out with a new reunification proposal and a disarmament proposal in keeping with the obtaining situation they are flinging down the gauntlet, far from acceding to them. This clearly shows that they are not interested at all in peace and reunification of Korea but are hell bent on division and confrontation.

U.S. Stages 'Provocative Aerial Exercise'

SK1606111190 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1046 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 16 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists are staging another provocative aerial exercise against the North from April 15 with South Korea as an operational theatre, according to military sources.

It is aimed at increasing the capacity of overseas-based formations of pursuit-assault planes to quickly take the operational zone "in an event of contingency" and strike the targets on the ground of the northern half of Korea in cooperation with the fighter-bombers and assault planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce and the puppet airforce.

The exercise which will last a fortnight in the air above South Korea involves hundreds of fighter-bombers, assault planes, pursuit-assault planes, AWACS [airborne warning and control system] planes, reconnaissance planes and early warning planes.

The U.S. imperialists and the South Korean puppets staged an exercise of strike at air and ground targets in the sky above Pyongchang, Wonju, Kongju and other areas with the mobilization of many F-16, F-4 and F-5 fighter-bombers, A-37 assault planes and OA-10 AWACS between June 12 and 15.

They have staged this month attack tactic exercise, "guerrilla" exercise, aerial mobile exercise, river-crossing exercise and combined artillery exercise for aggression on the North in the area close to the Military Demarcation Line with the massive mobilization of infantry units, motorised infantry units, special units, flying corps, artillery pieces, tanks and armored units of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces in South Korea and the puppet army.

Their reckless military rackets staged every day prove that they are working in a planned way to aggravate the tension on the Korean peninsula.

'Aerial Warfare Exercises' in South Continue

SK1806130590 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1054 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists let formations of nuclear-capable F-16 fighter-bombers fly to Kunsan and Osan Airforce bases in South Korea from the Kadena base in Okinawa and stage a joint exercise aimed at striking targets in the strategic interior of the Northern half of Korea with the support of formations of the same kind of planes belonging to the U.S. Seventh Airforce in South Korea from around 12 to 18 hours on June 16 and 17 according to military sources.

On the 16th, they staged various kinds of aerial warfare exercises and aerial shooting and bomb dropping exercises seven times in the sky above areas of South Korea. They also brought Iwakuni-based formations of assault planes and pursuit-assault planes including A-6 and F/A-18 to South Korea from around 11 to 15 hours on the 15th and 16th to stage an aerial electronics warfare exercise simulating a surprise attack on ground targets in the northern half of Korea.

Daily Urges U.S. To Respond to Overtures

SK1606104290 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1021 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 16 (KCNA)—The United States cannot evade its role as a responsible party concerned with the Korean question and it must affirmatively approach and respond to all our peace overtures including the tripartite talks for the solution of the Korean question, says NODONG SINMUN Saturday.

If the United States is to take a correct stand and play a positive role in its Korean policy, it must not pursue an aggressive design on Korea but renounce its policy of aggression and intervention against the Korean people, that is, the line of division and war, the author of the article says, and continues:

One of the important issues in this is for the United States to give up its "two Koreas" plot which is the main strategy of its Korean policy.

The manoeuvres to create "two Koreas" are a criminal act to keep the Korean nation divided and the Korean territory bisected indefinitely, and a brigandish act of aggression ruthlessly trampling underfoot the national sovereignty and dignity of the Korean people. Such things must not be allowed for the solution of the Korean question.

Another urgent matter for the settlement of the Korean question is to put an end to the U.S. imperialists' line of war in Korea, ease tension and guarantee peace.

The United States must take a positive measure for removing tension and danger of war created by itself on the Korean peninsula and respond to our proposal to hold DPRK-U.S. talks and tripartite talks to discuss the matter of replacing the armistice agreement with a peace agreement.

It, however, resorts to every conceivable scheme to avoid DPRK-U.S. talks and tripartite talks, averse to speak of a peace agreement. Worst still, the U.S. authorities are laying obstacles in the way of North-South dialogue.

Noting that the withdrawal of the U.S. troops and nuclear weapons from South Korea is a primary and indispensable requisite in the solution of the Korean question, the paper continues:

The withdrawal of the U.S. forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea is the fundamental problem of principle, the kernel in the solution of the Korean question.

The United States continues to shun this most important question and is craftily and shamelessly scheming to leave its troops in South Korea.

Left with no more pretext to justify its occupation of South Korea, the United States is now playing the drama of "reduction." While talking about U.S. Troops "reduction" in South Korea, the United States is stepping up arms buildup behind its curtain.

This is a grave criminal act of aggression going against the cause of peace in Korea and its peaceful reunification. By sticking more obstinatly to this line of division and war, the United States is trying to block the solution of the Korean question and keep a tight hold on South Korea as the foremost nuclear attack base and a base of anti-communist political and ideological offensive in its anti-socialist global strategy and Asia-Pacific strategy.

Such a situation can not be tolerated.

The United States must pull its troops and nuclear weapons out of South Korea without delay and take hands off Korea.

U.S. Urged To Respond to Disarmament Proposal

SK1706084490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0811 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 17 (KCNA)—Chong Chun-ki, chairman of th Korean National Peace Committee, in his statement June 16, strongly urged the United States and the South Korean authorities to show an affirmative response to the new disarmament proposal put forward at a joint meeting of the Central People's Committee, the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly and the Administration Council of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Saying that the new disarmament proposal sets out detailed problems for detente and guarantee of peace from confidence building to the phased reduction of armed forces in the North and the South and its verification, the conversion of the Korean peninsula into a zone free from nuclear weapons, the stage-by-stage withdrawal of all foreign forces and guarantee of peace after the disarmament, he continued:

If the United States is truly interested in peace on the Korean peninsula and its peaceful reunification, it must not hesitate now to reduce its armed forces and nuclear weapons in South Korea and not evade negotiation with us any longer.

How one approaches our disarmament proposal is a touchstone showing whether one wants detente and peace on the Korean peninsula, or not and whether one wants peaceful reunification, or not, we may say.

Regrettably enough, however, the person in authority of South Korea cried thoughtlessly that "disarmament without verification is meaningless". He talks at random without so much as reading our disarmament proposal. This shows the woeful indiscretion of No Tae-u. It notably reveals his anti-national colour lacking willingness of disarmament or of peace and reunification.

The South Korean authorities should discard their old bad habit of fearing and avoiding disarmament and show an affirmative response to the disarmament proposal put forward by the government of our republic, though belatedly.

Chong Chun-ki expressed the hope that all governments and peace organisations of various countries of the world would take positive measures favourable to the realization of our disarmament proposal and continue expressing firm solidarity with the Korean people in their cause of peaceful reunification.

Troop Reduction Really 'Arms Buildup'

SK1806052390 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0458 GMT 18 Jun 90

["U.S. Imperialists' 'Arms Cut' Program for Arms Buildup"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—The U.S. imperialists' program of "arms reduction" is not a program for the complete withdrawal of their forces and nuclear weapons from South Korea but an arms buildup program for their permanent occupation of South Korea, says NODONG SINMUN Sunday in an article.

Branding the program of "three-stage reduction" of the armed forces recently made public by the U.S. imperialists as one for readjusting the military strength and reinforcing military equipment, the author of the article says:

The arms readjustment program is to reduce some non-combatants out of the U.S. forces present in South Korea and maintain their main combat forces and nuclear weapons as they are.

In the "three-stage cutback" program they only announced they would "reduce" the air and ground forces in the first stage by 1993, not specifying the scale of the "reduction" in the second and third stages. And they did not define the last year of the third stage that would begin in 1996.

Their "three-phased cutback" program ignores such fundamental matters of primary importance as the dissolution of the U.S. command, the withdrawal of nuclear weapons and pullout of the main combat forces deployed in the area along the Military Demarcation Line.

The plan for reinforcing military equipment is aimed at replacing the old military equipment with new one to raise its "quality and effectiveness".

The U.S. imperialists are stepping up the plan for reinforcing the forces of the U.S. troops and the puppet army under the pretext of "making up for the gap in armed forces caused by "reduction".

They are going to hand over to the South Korean puppets 120 F-18 fighters and various types of modern missiles withdrawing from Europe.

Their "reduction" program is a plan of war to deceive and fool the public opinion at home and abroad, maintain their military occupation of South Korea and reinforce the armed forces of the U.S. troops and the puppet army.

The U.S. imperialists must take a practical step for reducing the armed forces in South Korea and withdrawing their troops and nuclear weapons.

If they can not completely withdraw their troops from South Korea at a time, they may do it stage-by-stage.

Such a phased withdrawal, however, must be oriented to a complete withdrawal.

Delegation of U.S. Scholars Arrive in Pyongyang

SK1506110090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1035 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 15 (KCNA)—A delegation of U.S. scholars headed by Prof. and Dr. Erwin Marquit of University of Minnesota, the United States, arrived in Pyongyang by air today to participate in a Korea-U.S. scholars forum which will be held in Pyongyang.

Also arriving here today were John Wilson Lewis, co-director of the Center for International Security and Arms Control of Stanford University, the United States, and his companion.

North Will Not Support Philippine Communists

OW1606124890 Tokyo KYODO in English 1219 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Manila, June 16 KYODO—North Korea has formally assured the Philippines that it will not support or have any contact with local communist rebels, as it expressed desire to establish diplomatic and economic relations with Manila, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Saturday.

"Now I am authorized by the Government of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to agree with the proposal conveyed by the delegation from the Philippines for (North) Korea not to have any contact with or support for (the) New People's Army in the Philippines," said North Korean Vice Premier Kim Tal-hyon in a letter to Philippine President Corazon Aquino dated June 12.

Kim also conveyed North Korea's "sincere intention to commence and promote" bilateral relations in all fields, including diplomatic and economic, with the Philippines. Manila and Pyongyang currently do not have diplomatic relations.

Declassified Philippine military reports earlier alleged that the Korea Workers' Party (KWP) agreed to provide arms and training to the NPA during party-to-party talks held with the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) at an undisclosed place on September 26 to October 9, 1986 and May 22-23, 1987. The NPA is the CPP's military arm which has been waging a revolution for the past 21 years to install a Marxist state.

Philippine Congressmen Jose de Venecia and Miguel Romero, who headed the delegation which recently visited North Korea, reported to Aquino that North Korean President Kim Il-song also personally assured them that North Korea does not and will not support the New People's Army or the Communist Party of the Philippines."

The parliamentarians in a memorandum to Aquino also quoted President Kim as assuring that "the North Korean Government and the ruling Korea Workers' Party do not and will not interfere in the internal affairs of the Philippines." The congressmen said the assurances were also personally echoed to them by the vice premier, who said the North Korean Government will not provide weapons or training to the CPP-NPA now or in the future.

De Venecia and Romero said North Korean Vice Minister of Foreign Trade Yi Song-nok also pointed out in their discussions that the U.S. military bases in the Philippines continue to pose a threat to North Korean security.

Yi reportedly also noted the Philippines earlier violated Korean sovereignty by sending Filipino troops (to defend South Korea in the 1950s) who killed North Korean soldiers.

Meanwhile, the Malacanang Presidential Palace confirmed military reports that the Dutch Government is set to declare CPP founder Jose Maria Sison, who is currently in exile in Utrecht, persona non grata.

Press Undersecretary Horacio Paredes told reporters that according to information the palace received from the Philippine Foreign Office, Sison is going to North Korea from the Netherlands.

"It does not necessarily mean that if he is declared persona non grata, he has to be deported here. He could go to another country which would accept him," Paredes added.

Soviet Art Troupe Leader Praises North

SK1606161690 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1502 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 16 (KCNA)—Chin Chun-chol, head of the Uzbek Sinsaeng Korean folk song and dance troupe, the Soviet Union, told a KCNA reporter about his impressions of home visit on June 14.

He said the members of the song and dance troupe were deeply moved by the reality of the homeland during their stay.

He said he saw the bright faces of the people full of life who had nothing to worry about and that Pyongyang, the capital city, stirred the hearts of all people.

Everywhere we went, he stated, we could see clearly the reality of the homeland developing and prospering under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il and its bright future.

Great guidance is bound to produce a great reality.

The socialist homeland is throwing ever brighter rays all over the world thanks to their tested guidance.

Recalling that he saw the concrete wall and Panmunjom, he said:
The U.S. imperialists have no pretext to stay in other's land. The U.S. imperialist aggressors must withdraw from South Korea at once, taking along their destruction weapons.

He expressed full support to the proposal for founding the democratic confederal republic of Koryo put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song.

New PRC Ambassador Presents Credentials

SK1806123090 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1047 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 18 (KCNA)—The great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, president of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, today received credentials from Zheng Yi, newly-appointed ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of China to the DPRK.

Present at the presentation ceremony were Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam and officials of the Chinese Embassy here.

After receiving the credentials, President Kim Il-song had a conversation with the ambassador.

Performance by KPA, PLA Artistes Given

SK1206055890 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0501 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 12 (KCNA)—A joint performance of artistes of the song and dance ensemble of the Korean People's Army [KPA] and the song and dance ensemble of the General Political Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army was given at the February 8 House of Culture on Monday.

It was watched by Colonel General Yi Pong-won and Major General Won Myong-kyon of the KPA, Kim Chun-han, vice-minister of culture and art, other officials concerned, People's Army soldiers, artistes and working people in the city.

Present on the occasion were members of the Chinese Embassy here.

The artistes of the two countries put on stage music, instrumental music, dance and other colorful numbers, divided into parts 1 and 2.

At the performance which started with men's chorus of Korean artistes "May Chong-il Peak Shine" and the Chinese song "Without the Communist Party There Would Be No New China," they alternately put on stage songs and dances of the two countries to deepen the sentiments of the Korea-China friendship.

The mixed duet "Bright Moon on the 15th Day of the Lunar Month", choruses "Korea Is One" and "The Battle Song of the Chinese People's Volunteers" and the song and dance "Militant Friendship Sealed in Blood" performed by the artistes of the two countries showed well the desire of the peoples and soldiers of the two countries to glorify the traditional Korea-China friendship through generations.

Radio, TV Committee Delegation Leaves for China

SK1206114490 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1113 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Pyongyang June 12 (KCNA)—A delegation of the Radio and TV broadcasting committee of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea headed by its Chairman Chong Ha-chol left here today for China.

It was seen off by Cha Song-su, vice-chairman of the Radio and TV broadcasting committee of the DPRK and an official of the Chinese Embassy in Pyongyang.

GDR Congratulates Kim Il-song on Reelection

SK1206130390 Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean 1200 GMT 9 Jun 90

[Congratulatory message sent by Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, acting state head of the GDR and chairman of the Council of State, to Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea and president of the DPRK, on his reelection as president—read by announcer]

[Text] Pyongyang

Your Excellency DPRK President Kim Il-song

Respected Your Excellency President

In connection with your reelection as president of the DPRK, I express wholehearted congratulations to you.

I wish you to be healthy and, at the same time, to have creative power in your responsible activities.

[Signed] Sabine Bergmann-Pohl, acting state head of the GDR and chairman of the Council of State
[Dated] 7 June 1990, Berlin

Radio VNS Denounces No-Gorbachev Summit Talk

SK1606011390 (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea 0300 GMT 12 Jun 90

[Text] Even though the No Tae-u fascist group noisily claims that the San Francisco meeting was a great success, people from all walks of life have strongly denounced No Tae-u's meeting as a toadyist treason and rough-and-ready diplomacy.

In a statement released following the San Francisco meeting, the National Democratic Alliance of Korea [Chonminnyon] branded the meeting as something not helpful to achieving the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula and then denounced No Tae-u for trying to use the San Francisco meeting as an instrument in perpetuating the division.

Chonminnyon also said that No Tae-u's diplomacy is nothing but an act of kowtowing to the superpowers and of trying to emerge from a domestic political crisis.

In the meantime, the National Council of University Student Representatives said in a statement that the San Francisco meeting will only perpetuate the division on the Korean peninsula.

In a commentary, Kim Tae-sik, spokesman for the Party for Peace and Democracy, denounced the rumor on loan grants as a rough-and-ready diplomacy. He also said that the granting of $3 billion in loans is beyond the capability of the South Korean economy.

Spokesman Kim, denouncing No Tae-u for having failed to make his case during the San Francisco meeting, insisted that it was an expression of a rash, low-profile attitude to allow the agenda items in the talk and procedures to be handled by one side only.

Chang Sok-hwa, spokesman for the tentative Democratic Party, denounced the San Francisco meeting in a statement, arguing that the talk had been conditioned on the granting of loans, and that his party was against any kind of attempt by the Democratic Liberal Party to use the talk as an instrument to regain its popularity.

South Korea

North Intends To Withdraw From Nuclear Treaty

SK1606040990 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 16 Jun 90

[By correspondent Pak Un-won from Vienna]

[Text] North Korea revealed that it will withdraw from the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons [NPT] in case the United States does not ensure that it will not carry out a nuclear attack.

Facing a protest lodged by some 20 member nations including the United States against its failure to conclude the treaty on measures for nuclear safety, the North Korean side showed such intention.

Since North Korea took a hardline position to withdraw from the NPT under a political excuse, people are paying attention to how the discord between North Korea and the International Atomic Energy Agency over the treaty on measures for nuclear safety will come to a conclusion.

North 'Likely' To Sign Nuclear Safeguards Pact

SK1606071090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0648 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Washington, June 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—North Korea is likely to sign the nuclear safeguards accord of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) by August, south Korean Science and Technology Minister Chong Kun-mo said Friday.

Chong said he knew the Soviet Union, worried by Pyongyang's refusal to enter the safeguards pact, had backed out of a deal to sell four nuclear reactors to the North.

Visiting Washington after participating in an IAEA meeting in Vienna, Chong said IAEA member countries, including the Soviet Union and East European nations, would adopt a resolution calling for Pyongyang to join the safeguard accords if it hadn't done so before a meeting on nuclear non-proliferation in Vienna scheduled for August.

"I heard that North Korea will join the accord by that time," Chong said.

Paper Cited on North Nuclear Arms Development

SK1706103390 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0900 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Report by correspondent Han Chu-kyong From Hong Kong]

[Text] SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST, an English-language paper published in Hong Kong, has reported that there is a high possibility that North Korea will have the capability to possess nuclear weapons within six months and that the United States and the Soviet Union are worried about the possible effect that such a nuclear development plan by North Korea will have on the Korean peninsula.

Quoting a Soviet diplomat stationed in London, the newspaper reported that the Kim Il-song regime of North Korea had received a considerable amount of nuclear fuel and high technology necessary for developing nuclear weapons from the defunct East German and Romanian regimes prior to the reforms for democratization in these countries last year. The paper also reported that, besides North Korea, the Republic of

South Africa, had also received nuclear development support from East Germany and Romania through Western arms dealers.

The paper also reported that the Soviet Union had shared this information with the United States and that prior to receiving the information, the United States had estimated that it would take more than five years for North Korea to possess nuclear weapons.

North Nuclear Weapon Capability To Be Verified

SK1806034590 Seoul Domestic Service in Korean 0300 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] The Government has sent emergency instructions to the ROK Embassy in the United States and the ROK Consular Department in the Soviet Union to verify the truth of the foreign press report that the Soviet Union informed the United States that North Korea will be capable of producing nuclear weapons within six months.

A high-ranking Government official today said that the Government has so far not been informed by the United States or the Soviet Union of the possibility of North Korea producing nuclear weapons, adding that he, however, cannot disclose the ROK Government's own evaluation of North Korea's nuclear weapon production capabilities.

The official stressed that in view of the stage reached by North Korea in the development of nuclear weapons, it is urgently necessary to create an international atmosphere for making North Korea sign the international nuclear safety agreement.

No on Bringing Change to Inter-Korean Relations

SK1806035190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0302 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (YONHAP)—South Korean President No Tae-u has promised to seek an epoch-making change in relations with North Korea by 1995, just 50 years after the division of the Korean peninsula, using the "global whirlwinds of change" blowing into Northeastern Asia and the Korean peninsula.

"I've come to realize that we ourselves should take the reins of our fate, of the Korean peninsula and its people, because we can now see the end of the times when the peninsula was divided by superpowers and when they imposed barriers to national unification," No said Monday.

Having lunch with eight members of the 21st century committee's sub-committee on unification and Korea's international status, No explained the results of his recent summit talks with Japan, the Soviet Union and the United States.

"Such powerful nations as the United States, the Soviet Union and Japan are concentrating their national power on taking the lead in the global changes, but I regret that we are sticking to abandoned and trite ideology and causing social instability by putting minor interests before the national interest," he said.

Editorial on Confirmed Obstinacy of North

SK1506011690 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Jun 90 p 8

[Editorial: "North Korean Obstinacy"]

[Text] There seems to be no changing the confirmed obstinacy of north Korean Communists. They are not likely to budge an inch from their methods of conducting foreign policy as well as their doctrinarian outlook and governing style. Pyongyang represents a mixture of isolationism, dogmatism, militancy, despotism and cultism.

Again this week Pyongyang indicated its rejection of Seoul's earlier offer to hold a south-north summit, putting a damper on the resumption of the suspended inter-Korean dialogue. The negative reaction came as an expression of its irritation and embarrassment at the recent San Francisco summit between President No Tae-u and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

In a telephone message sent Wednesday via Panmunjom, two top north Korean officials in charge of preparatory contacts with the south condemned "the indecent behavior" of the Seoul government to "solicit the intervention of outside forces" for the realization of an inter-Korean summit, Seoul's membership in the United Nations and the reform and liberalization of north Korea.

North Korea called on south Korea to abolish its anti-Communist policy and discontinue its diplomatic endeavors in the cause of Korean unification on the ground that it is an internal affair to be settled on our own. Thus, Pyongyang made it clear that any future dialogue with Seoul would be conditional upon the latter's compliance with its absurd criticism and arbitrary demands.

The oppositionist position of north Korea as regards the progressing rapprochement between Seoul and Moscow was foreseeable but far from logical and timely.

It is more than natural for Seoul to consult and work together with not only its allies and friends but also all prospective partners in the world community to iron out its international political issues, among them the improvement of bilateral ties with other nations including those in Eastern Europe.

Since the role of the Soviet Union has been decisive in Korean affairs, negotiations between Seoul and Moscow are necessary and desirable to remove the causes of tension in the region and the world at large. There is nothing submissive or shady about the open and fair encounter between Presidents No and Gorbachev.

All the charges and excuses north Korea is prone to employ are part of the unrealistic tactics of distortion and obstructionism to shield itself from the mounting pressure for reform and opening. Pyongyang had better open its shell before it is too late.

Editorial Calls Change in North Inevitable

SK1506014090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 15 Jun 90 p 6

[Editorial: "North Korean Refusal of Dialogue"]

[Text] Judging by the way North Korea is reacting, the impact of the recent Seoul-Soviet summit seems to have been more serious than expected. The Pyongyang regime that vented its displeasure and indignation through the mass media has now come up with a concrete government action, sending a telephone message to Seoul, rejecting the proposed resumption of overall dialogue between the South and the North.

In apparent reference to the meeting between President No Tae-u and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev in San Francisco last week, the Pyongyang message charged the "person in authority" in the South (President No) with reckless behavior begging and pleading for others' help in inter-Korean affairs as in the moves for a South- North summit and Korean U.N. membership.

Calling such behavior the act of slavish submission to foreign powers and an anti-national action perpetuating the division of the country, Pyongyang maintained that the inter-Korea summit could not be arranged and even if it is ever held, nothing could be expected from it.

The poignant Pyongyang statement is contradictory to its previous March 31 announcement expressing its readiness to resume all levels of talks with the South including arms reduction negotiations. Since the May 31 statement was issued shortly after the formal announcement of the No-Gorbachev summit, the latest statement blatantly shows the North's wavering methods of coping in the aftermath of the Seoul-Moscow summit.

North Korea, disappointingly, not only slammed the door on inter-Korea contacts but also shattered hope for its own political reform and openness. The telephone message claimed that North Korea has nothing to learn from outside changes, saying that it has successfully carried out social reforms and is still reforming its society to make it complete.

The Pyongyang regime, in this context, must have concluded that there is no choice but to tighten its isolationist policy for the time being, for fear that the exposure of its populace to the changes outside would only propel popular resistance against the Kim Il-song clique.

On the external front, the Pyongyang leadership may have intended to put a brake on the pace of the Seoul-Moscow rapprochement, on the one hand, and to forestall a closer relationship between Seoul and Beijing, on the other. It is assumed that Pyongyang will attempt to accelerate its efforts to build a joint front with China, the only outstanding ally running against the tide of pro-democracy reform.

But it is doubtful how long the North's desperate endeavor will last, as China itself is bound to change sooner or later. The forthcoming Asian Games to be staged in Beijing in the fall are sure to provide a momentum to this end.

For the successful staging of the Asiad, Beijing will be obliged to increase its contacts with the outside world and notably the Seoul government in terms of trade, personnel exchanges as well as technological cooperation. Once China begins reforming itself, the situation will be totally different from now.

At the same time, if the Chinese government accelerates official contacts with Seoul, the triangular relationship among the South, North and China will undergo a major shift hopefully in favor of a three-way reconciliation. At any rate, it is not in the best interests of the South to drive a wedge between China and the North. Rather it should promote the greater cause of easing tension on the Korean peninsula and national reunification.

On the horns of a dilemma, Pyongyang is expected to buttress its hardline, uncompromising stand but it will have to change its course in the face of increasing pressure from the Soviet Union and the expected Seoul-Beijing rapprochement. If the current Pyongyang efforts to improve relations with the United States and Japan bear fruit, the North may find a short cut to its self-transformation, which is inevitable in the end.

Hyundai Gift of Equipment Arrives in North

SK1306035490 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 13 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Tokyo (Reuter)—A ship has sailed from Japan to the North Korean port of Nampo laden with a gift of construction equipment from the South Korean industrial giant Hyundai, Japanese shipping industry sources said on Tuesday.

The Panamanian-registered Toyo No. 5 arrived in Nampo, on North Korea's Yellow Sea coast, from the southern Japanese port of Kobe on June 8, said the sources in Kobe.

Its cargo included construction equipment promised to North Korean leaders when Hyundai founder Chong Chu-yong visited the reclusive communist state in January 1989.

Arbatov Foresees Changes in Soviet-North Ties

SK1706050090 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 17 Jun 90 p 2

[Report by correspondent Kang Chon-sok from Tokyo]

[Text] Arbatov, director of the United States of America and Canada Institute in Moscow and a top foreign policy adviser to Soviet President Gorbachev, on 16 June commented on the long-term prospects for the Korean peninsula situation. He observed, "If tensions on the Korean peninsula are alleviated, reducing the military threat there, the North Korean-Soviet agreement on friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance will ultimately have to change."

Arbatov, after making this statement, noted, "The Soviet Union wants to maintain its relationship as an ally of North Korea." He also expressed his view that with a change in Soviet-North Korean relations, the traditional, allied relations between the ROK and the United States also would change.

Speaking in an interview with a Japanese economic daily, he said that if relations among countries surrounding the Korean peninsula are normalized, "North Korea will have to normalize its relations with the United States and Japan."

In discussing the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Soviet Union and the ROK within the year, he said that there are currently no obstacles, assuming that preparations for relations will progress smoothly. He then added that the timing of relations will be decided after North Korea's opinion is taken into consideration. He said that it is not proper to victimize North Korea for the normalization of relations with the ROK, and that this would not help the ROK, either. Nevertheless, he made it clear that this does not mean the Soviet Union will do everything North Korea desires.

Soviet Consul General Chosen for Seoul

SK1606070090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0640 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 16 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union's first consul general in South Korea is likely to be the head of the Korea-Mongolia division in the Foreign Ministry's Socialist Countries of Asia Administration, Seoul's top diplomat in Moscow said Saturday. Consul General Kong No-myong, talking with reporters at Kimpo International Airport prior to his departure for Moscow, said the Soviet Official, known only as Yeremenko, would arrive to direct the Soviet Consular Department next month.

Kong was called home for consultations on May 30 to prepare for the unprecedented Seoul-Moscow summit in San Francisco on June 4.

Moscow's Consular Department in the City Air Terminal Building in Samsong-tong, southern Seoul, is currently run by acting head Anatoliy I. Sirotyuk. The department began operations March 17.

"The (Korean) Government plans to conclude negotiations on diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union at the earliest possible date that conditions permit," Kong said. He said he was carrying "government directives" related to the negotiations on Seoul-Moscow ties.

"I will discuss with the Soviets the timing and agenda of the negotiations as soon as I get back. Our government will decide its position upon seeing the results of the discussion," he said.

Denying reports that Korean negotiators will visit Moscow next month, he said even working-level talks would be impossible before the end of the Communist Party convention July 2-9.

He said there was nothing particular that might hinder talks on diplomatic relations, but admitted it was possible that the Soviets might ask for loans in talks on economic cooperation. It was reported shortly before the San Francisco summit talks between Presidents No Tae-u and Mikhail Gorbachev that Moscow had requested a 5 billion U.S. dollar loan as a condition for normalization of bilateral ties. Seoul immediately dismissed the reports as groundless.

Asked if Seoul would tackle the question of diplomatic ties and economic cooperation at one time or separately, the career diplomat said, "I don't know if it will all happen at one time or not, but I can tell that diplomatic ties are the first thing."

He said he was told by the Soviet Foreign Ministry that the Korean issue was raised in a high-level Sino-Soviet meeting in Moscow last April and that the two sides agreed on the need to maintain peace on the Korean peninsula and make progress in inter-Korean dialogue.

Consul General Hopes To 'Upgrade' Soviet Ties

SK1706003090 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 17 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] Kong No-myong, head of the consular department in Moscow, says he would step up contacts with Soviet officials for the purpose of arranging a trip of a high-powered Korean mission to follow upon accords of the Seoul-Moscow summit in San Francisco on establishing diplomatic relations. He told reporters yesterday shortly before his departure for Moscow that he had fully discussed strategies with top officials of the relevant government agencies to that effect. "Negotiation is expected to start after the 28th Communist Party congress scheduled for July 2-9," he said.

He returned home on May 30 to join a handful of Chongwadae and Foreign Ministry officials preparing for President No Tae-u's stunning talk with Mikhail Gorbachev.

His counterpart will be accredited to Seoul next month. Leongrim Yefimovich Eremenko [name as published] director for Korean affairs, has been tapped to head the Soviet consular department here. His position is that of an embassy minister, much lower than Amb. Kong's post in Korean diplomatic circles.

Korea and the Soviet Union entered into consular relations in early December last year and the former opened its consular department formally at the state-run Korea

Trade Promotion Corporation's Moscow representation office. But the Soviet Union has stalled in filling the top seat of its government agency in Seoul.

He said he hopes to upgrade his contacts with the Soviets in the wake of the No-Gorbachev meeting. His access to Foreign Ministry officials has so far been confined to directors general.

Genrikh Kireyev [name as published], director general for Asian socialist countries, briefed him on the results of Gorbachev's meeting with Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng early May at his request. The two communist superpower leaders shared the opinion that the Korea problem should be solved through dialogue without intervention by outsiders and tension on the peninsula should be eased, a position impartial to both sides in the South and the North, he quoted Kireyev as saying.

Kong, who served as assistant foreign minister, ambassador to Brazil and consul general in New York, said he met Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev just once at a reception. He also met North Korean Amb. Son Song-pil at a party but their talk was superficial with topics centering on their lives in Moscow and family issues.

Soviets Willing To Sign Investment Accords

SK1806034390 Seoul YONHAP in English 0254 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union is willing to sign accords on investment protection and avoidance of double taxation with South Korea despite the absence of diplomatic ties, the leader of a Korean economic mission to Moscow said on his return over the weekend. Nam Tok-u, chairman of the Korea Foreign Trade Association (KFTA), said high-ranking officials of the Soviet Foreign and Finance Ministries had made the stance clear to him in Moscow.

"Citing the establishment of trade offices and consular departments in each other's nation, the Soviets said such economic agreements could be dealt with separately from diplomatic relations," said Nam upon returning home Saturday afternoon from a two-week tour of the Soviet Union.

Seong Pil-chu, deputy director-general of European affairs in the foreign ministry and a member of the trade mission, predicted substantial negotiations could start in September and be concluded by the end of the year.

Nam said the Soviet Union wanted to hold an exhibition of its science and technology in Korea after one in Japan next January. He also said KFTA and the Soviet Chamber of Commerce and Industry had exchanged notes on business cooperation, including joint publication of bulletins carrying economic information, joint seminars and swaps of economic specialists.

As for delayed payment for imports, Nam said such problems had occurred as businesses had imported items without getting bank payment insurance after the central government expanded autonomy of the republics in April last year. "I don't think the delays will result in a serious problem as the Soviet Union is rich in resources and has a huge amount of gold," he said. According to a report by the overseas investment Institute of the Export-Import Bank of Korea, the Soviet Union owes foreign traders 1.5 billion to 2 billion U.S. dollars.

On his visit to Leningrad, Nam heard requests for investment in consumer goods, tourism and construction, while in Khabarovsk he was called on to encourage Korean investment in textiles and stuffed products.

Gosplan (The State Planning Committee) asked for accelerated exchange of sophisticated technologies and use of the trans-Siberian railroad for shipment of goods to and from European countries.

"The Soviet Union has a rich array of resources and high-level technologies. With all this potential, if perestroika succeeds, the Soviet Union can become an economic giant comparable with the United States," Nam said.

Hyundai Motor Co. discussed selling its cars in the Soviet Union, Pacific Chemical Co. discussed opening a joint-venture cosmetics firm and Kyung Do Trading Co. discussed sales of jeans.

Soviets Favor Holding Meeting in Seoul

SK1406071690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0605 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 14 (YONHAP)—The Soviet Union came out strongly in favor of holding the 47th general meeting of the Economic and Social Commission of Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in Seoul next year during the 46th general meeting in Bangkok on Wednesday, enabling a unanimous decision, a Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

"It was the first time that the Soviet Union supported South Korea in an international forum, and it reflected the fast promotion of relations between the two countries," the official said.

"China gave implicit support to Seoul's hosting the meeting by speaking positively in connection with selection of the agenda for the Seoul meeting."

Some 1,000 representatives from 48 member countries and more than 10 observer nations are expected to participate in the meeting, to be held in late March or in early April next year.

Ministry Announces Direct Mail With USSR

SK1406014390 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 14 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] Korea and the Soviet Union will start exchanging airmail directly with each other starting tomorrow, the Communications Ministry announced yesterday.

All mail to and from the Soviet Union has so far had to go through a third country, either Japan or Hong Kong.

It will now take about a week for Korean mail to get to the Soviet Union, more than a week faster than before, a ministry official said.

At present, Korea has direct mail service with three communist nations—Hungary, Yugoslavia and China.

Youths To Attend Space Camp in USSR

SK1306021090 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 13 Jun 90 p 3

[Text] A group of 10 Korean youths and three guardians will go to the Soviet Union August to attend space camp programs in Moscow and Leningrad, officials said yesterday.

The Young Astronauts of Korea (YAK) said the agreement on the Korean participation in the space training programs was reached in Moscow Monday.

The agreement, which also calls for other exchange programs between the YAK and the All-Union Youth Aerospace Society, was signed between YAK Chairman Yi Sang-hui and Aleksandr Paramonov, vice chairman of the Soviet society.

The Soviet-organized space camp programs for youths will be held Aug. 7-20 in Moscow and Leningrad, YAK officials said.

Minister on Using Games To Improve China Ties

SK1506061490 Seoul YONHAP in English 0557 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 15 (OANA-YONHAP)—Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung said Friday that South Korea was actively trying to make the Asian Games a landmark in improving relations with China. Seoul has had various contacts with Beijing without reaching a concrete agreement on upgrading ties, or exchanging consular missions, Choe said in a regular press briefing.

He said he knew nothing about reports that opposition leader Kim Tae-chung would visit Beijing during the September games to support President No Tae-u's northern policy, which is designed to improve ties with countries such as the Soviet Union and China.

Choe said the government was eager to help North Korea improve its ties with the South's allies, including the United States and Japan, to reduce tension on the Korean peninsula and to promote dialogue and exchange between the divided halves of Korea.

He listed renouncement of terrorism and of communization of South Korea as preconditions for improved ties with Washington and Tokyo.

The foreign minister also said the government was drafting an inter-Korean arms reduction proposal and the disarmament issue would be discussed at a high-level political and military meeting already proposed by South Korea.

Choe said Korea would begin negotiations with the Soviet Union on opening diplomatic relations after working out procedural details.

He also said the government thinks it undesirable to hastily push for improved ties with Vietnam in view of circumstances in Vietnam and Cambodia, and added that such a position coincides with that of the United States.

Athletes Encouraged To Run Second at Asiad

SK1406025690 Seoul YONHAP in English 0245 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 14 (YONHAP)—Some 500 athletes and officials on South Korea's Asian Games team have decided to settle for second place in the Beijing Games in September.

Kim Chong-yul, head of the Korea Amateur Sports Association, in a rally at Taeneung training complex in northern Seoul, urged athletes and officials to be runners up in the Sept. 22-Oct. 7 Asiad.

Sports Minister Chong Tong-song encouraged the national team to devote themselves to their training with a new determination since only 100 days remain before the games.

The Korean team will comprise around 728 athletes and officials, the nation's largest delegation to participate in a sports event.

The Korea Olympic Committee is to make the final selection by the end of the month.

Poll on Anti-U.S. Movement, Political Parties

SK1606041790 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 9 Jun 90 pp 26-27

[By reporters Yi Ki-chang and Yi Yu-sik on an opinion poll taken by HANGUK ILBO and the Continent Institute from 9-13 May]

[Excerpts] It was shown in the poll that people very much criticized the United States for its pressure to open our markets and for its social and cultural influence on us. Regarding the U.S. pressure to open our markets, 52.9 percent said that, "even though its pressure is just, it is too excessive," and 37.3 percent said that "the U.S. demand is a unilateral demand which puts its own interests first." While, only 8.8 percent said that "its demand is reasonable."

Also, 49.8 percent negatively assessed the U.S. social and cultural influences on us, and 48 percent affirmatively assessed them. The more highly educated the respondents were, the more anti-American they were.

In contrast, 59.1 percent said that U.S. political influence over us were "helpful," and 71 percent said that U.S. economic influence were "helpful." Still, it was shown, the more highly educated the respondents were, the more critical they were of U.S. political and economic influences.

Almost all of the respondents, 92.8 percent, said that the ROK-U.S. relations are "not equal." Also, the number of respondents who said that the anti-U.S. movement is "rather just" (49.5 percent) is bigger than that of the respondents who said that the movement is "not desirable" (29.2 percent). [passage omitted]

Only 11.5 percent said that "North Korea will implement reformist and open-door policies similar to those of Eastern Europe"; 44.2 percent said that, "even though it will open up on the surface, it will not undergo substantial changes"; 27.1 percent said that "it will further strengthen its control"; and 16.1 percent said that "it will not change at all."

Regarding the government's role in exchanges with North Korea, 67.7 percent said that the government must take charge of the exchanges with North Korea. [passage omitted]

Regarding the popularity of political parties, 17.2 percent supported the Democratic Liberal Party [DLP]; 16 percent supported the Party for Peace and Democracy; 12.6 percent supported the Democratic Party; and 6.1 percent supported dissident forces. It was shown that the DLP is gaining popularity.

However, a total of 48.1 percent said that they "do not support any party" (36.3 percent) or that they "do not know" (11.8 percent). It is very noteworthy that mistrust of politics has aggravated. [passage omitted]

Editorial Assails U.S. Criticism of Trade Rules

SK1706013590 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 16 Jun 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Wrong Idea About 'Thriftiness'"]

[Text] Fair rules are very important when it comes to trade. It is out of the desire to respect such rules that we have steadily opened our markets to U.S. goods, despite the difficulties we have experienced in the process. Moreover, fairness can only be properly attained when both trading partners find their trade practices to be reasonable and mutually acceptable.

For some time, it appeared that trade feuds between Korea and the United States were dormant. On 13 June, however, Carla Hills, the U.S. trade representative, reportedly summoned ROK Ambassador to the United States Pak Tong-chin to warn that Korea's anti-luxury import goods campaign is the same as restricting imports, and she also voiced regret over the sluggishness of U.S. exports to Korea. Before this, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Mosbacher lodged a similar protest with a Korean trade delegation, threatening to send lawyers to Korea to investigate department stores and retail shops to see whether restrictions are being imposed on import goods.

There has been a great number of trade disputes between our two countries, and we have seen many of them settled. But this time it seems to have gone too far and to be too preposterous. Stung by trade deficits caused in recent months by a sluggish economy, excessive imports, and a sense of social disharmony bred by the flooding of expensive and luxurious imports, the Korean people have set about correcting these trends with great pain, and, in a sense, they have achieved what they sought to accomplish. It is not so much preposterous as unfair that the United States should call this "a deliberate act of restricting imports" or "an unfair practice," taking the Korean people to task for the results of their actions. This campaign may have resulted in reduced imports, but in our opinion the United States has no right to call our people's campaign against excessive consumption of import goods an "unfair practice" and find fault with it. In this context, the United States should try to understand the reasons why our society launched a campaign against the excessive consumption of luxurious import goods before sending lawyers to Korea on a fact-finding mission to see whether our department stores have restricted the selling of imports.

Such remarks by U.S. Government officials leave us with an impression that the Americans may wrongly perceive our social structure, our people's way of thinking, and relations between the public and bureaucrats. We know that the Americans do not misunderstand our country to the point of believing that our government can whimsically manipulate public opinion or that it can make people buy and smoke American cigarettes even if they are reluctant to do so. Apparently, there is a problem with the U.S. perception that the campaign against excessive consumption of luxurious imports has engendered results that are "a consequence of the government's directives or restrictive measures."

In a sense, our country is partially to blame for having created such a wrong impression in Americans. Uniform behavior patterns imposed on the people by past regimes to expedite the implementation of policies may even have provided the foreigners, who abhor such things, with the idea to exploit this past behavior whenever they find it expedient to use it in their favor.

This is not the first time the foreigners have taken advantage of this perception. In June 1989, a similar situation arose when controversy erupted over whether grapefruit imported from the United States was harmful or not. Although the use of harmful insecticides on U.S. grapefruit was called into question by our consumer group, many Americans entertained the misunderstanding that our government was behind the controversy. Of course, this time there are differences, but the situations bear some resemblance.

Before departing for the United States to settle Japan's mounting trade feuds with the Reagan administration, Nakasone, the then Japanese prime minister, stung U.S. businessmen in an interview on U.S. television when he stressed the need for American businessmen to be more aggressive in their sales activities in Japan.

In defiance of public opposition and at the risk of devastating domestic businesses concerned, our country opened its market to 95.5 percent of U.S. exports in 1986, and it has broadened that figure to 96.4 percent this year. In the case of industrial goods, the ratio of the openness of our country's market was 99.5 percent in 1986, and that figure has increased to 99.7 percent this year. Therefore, the opening of our country's market is not inferior to that of other countries. Also, given the international conditions related to trade, these trends are likely to keep growing. If this is the case, trade depends not on the degree of market-openness, but on a strategy for fierce competition and, ultimately, on the choices made by consumers. During this process, the government's role inevitably will steadily decline. The trade feuds between the ROK and the United States should be resolved properly. Moreover, there should not be any trade feuds in the future caused by "misunderstanding."

U.S. Ambassador to Japan on Ties With North

SK1706124290 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 16 Jun 90 p 2

[By correspondent Chong Hun from Tokyo]

[Text] On 14 June, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Armacost said that since it is handling the issue of improving relations with North Korea on a priority basis, the United States needs to take some sort of measure to expedite a change in North Korea's attitude.

While discussing issues related to the Korean peninsula in a two-hour meeting with Chairwoman of the Japan Socialist Party Takako Doi on 14 June in Tokyo, Ambassador Armacost explained that working contacts are being made between the United States and North Korea in Beijing. He did not reveal what kind of expediting measure he was referring to.

He added that despite North Korea's strong protest against the ROK-USSR summit talks, contacts between the two countries are continuing.

U.S. Puts Brakes on Vietnam Diplomatic Ties

SK1606043990 Seoul HANGYORE SINMUN in Korean 13 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] It was learned on 12 June that the U.S. side is putting strong brakes on the normalization of diplomatic relations and the expansion of economic exchanges between our country and Vietnam. This is noteworthy from the fact that the United States can put its brakes on Korea's northern policy anytime it wants to if it does not accord with U.S. plans.

On this day a government official revealed, "The United States is requesting its friendly nations to limit political and economic exchanges with Vietnam so that it can rapidly settle the Vietnam issue." He also revealed, "Of course improving relations between Korea and Vietnam is an issue concerning both countries but the biggest barrier to this is the position of the United States in relation to this issue."

This government official said, "Especially since the mid-eighties the volume of trade with Vietnam has increased gradually, thus the demand for economic cooperation and expansion of investment have increased in the economic circles. Therefore, it is necessary to normalize diplomatic relations to back this up, but because of the U.S. blockade policy toward Vietnam, the fact is that we can only carry out trade through a third country." He also said, "If diplomatic relations are to be normalized, a complete settlement of the Cambodian issue must be resolved."

It has been learned that the United States is requesting other friendly nations which have diplomatic relations with Vietnam to not expand exchanges in the economic field. However, on the other hand, the United States is not only opposing our economic exchanges with Vietnam but also opposes the establishment of diplomatic relations on the ground that this might bring about a great pervasive effect on other countries.

In a press conference in early May, Solomon, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs, upon his departure from Korea said, "Korea must exercise self-restraint in making contacts with Vietnam until the Cambodian issue is resolved." Also in February domestic general trading companies were planning to establish branch offices in Vietnam after obtaining permission from the government. However this was disapproved due to the opposition from the United States.

Even though Korea and Vietnam are under unofficial relations, personnel and material exchanges have continued to increase through third countries. Last year more than 1,000 people have visited each other's country and the volume of trade has amounted to $70-80 million. It has been learned that our country ranks fifth in trade with Vietnam among the non-Communist countries.

Minister Warns Japan on Improving DPRK Ties

SK1606120090 Seoul CHUNGANG ILBO in Korean 16 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] By announcing time after time its willingness to hold contacts and to establish diplomatic relations with North Korea without any preconditions, Japan has shown its opinions differ greatly from the South Korean Government's on the issue of relations with North Korea. South Korea still maintains that North Korea must renounce its policy of reunification through the communizing of the South before any of South Korea's allies improve relations with North Korea. (See related story on page 3)

Addressing a Diet session on 4 June, the day before the ROK-USSR summit meeting took place, Japanese Foreign Minister Nakayama said, "If, in connection with the new moves on the Korean peninsula, North Korea calls for the establishment of diplomatic relations with Japan, Japan is willing to positively respond to it at any time." Also in a Diet session on 15 June, Japan's Prime Minister Kaifu officially recognized, for the first time, the existence of the North Korean Government by stating that "he neither thought nor described it as an illegitimate state." He then voiced his government's desire to "contact North Korea without any preconditions."

Commenting on this, Foreign Minister Choe Ho-chung on 15 June said, "South Korea is against any improvement in relations between its allies and North Korea unless North Korea meets preconditions, such as repudiating its line of reunifying the South by way of communizing it."

He also warned against Japan's policy of rapidly coming closer to North Korea by stressing: "It is not appropriate for our ally to establish diplomatic relations with a state that is scheming to invade one of its allies."

In a summit meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Kaifu on 25 May, President No Tae-u said, "It would be desirable if Japan tries to improve its relations with North Korea, or tries to have contacts with it, only after North Korea meets such preconditions as repudiating its line of reunifying the South by communizing it and its signing of the nuclear safeguards accord."

Another government official expressed his concern in this way: "Fearing that an atmosphere for cross-recognition might be created if South Korea and China agree to normalize their bilateral relations, North Korea is now showing an aversion to improving relations with Japan. However, if North Korea changes its policy and proposes to Japan that it be allowed to open a trade mission in Japan, it is highly likely that Japan will accept such a proposal without any preconditions. If and when this happens, our government's policy may hit a big snag."

Japan, DPRK Ties Studied

SK1806034190 Seoul YONHAP in English 0237 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government is studying the Japanese Government's recent move to improve relations with North Korea and is considering various countermeasures, a senior government official said Monday. The Government has instructed the Korean Embassy in Japan to find out the real intention behind the move, and is likely to call on Japanese Ambassador Kenichi Yanagi to give a full explanation of his government's position, said the official, who declined to be named.

Foreign Minister Taro Nakayama said June 4 that if North Korea were to seek to establish diplomatic relations with Japan, Japan would respond positively.

Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu told the lower house of the Diet on June 15 that Japan had never thought or said that North Korea was an illegitimate government.

"I don't know the real intention of the remarks at this stage, but I don't think it is a matter of grave concern," the official said. "South Korea and Japan have already agreed to have close consultations, through a summit and a foreign ministers meeting, on Japan's relations with North Korea."

"The Government is poised to learn Japan's stance through several channels, but contacts between the Japanese and North Korean Governments do not mean an immediate improvement of relations between Tokyo and Pyongyang."

The Government's three prerequisites are not a condition for contacts between friendly nations and the Communist North but a condition for formal improvement of relations, he said.

The South Korean Government says North Korea should discard its policy of communization of South Korea by force, join the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency and resume inter-Korean dialogue.

South, Congo Establish Diplomatic Relations

SK1606032090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0257 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 16 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea reopened diplomatic relations with the Congo on Saturday, 25 years after breaking ties because the African country established diplomatic ties with North Korea in 1964. Korean Ambassador to Zaire Kim Hyon-kon and Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Minister Antoinen Dinga-oba signed the document on establishment of ambassadorial ties in Brazzaville on Thursday and agreed to open relations on Saturday, the Foreign Ministry announced.

Congo is the fourth socialist nation in the Mideastern and African region with which South Korea has established diplomatic ties this year, following Algeria, Namibia and South Yemen.

Restoration of ties with Congo brought to 141 the number of countries with which South Korea has diplomatic relations.

A ministry spokesman said restoration of ties with the Congo would improve bilateral relations and have a favorable effect on Seoul's relations with other African countries with which it does not have diplomatic ties, including Zambia, Zimbabwe, Angola and Mozambique.

The Congo has maintained a close relationship with North Korea and supported Pyongyang in the international community. The socialist country recently began economic exchanges with the Western world.

Seoul Opens Embassy in Ulaanbaatar 18 Jun

SK1806134590 Seoul YONHAP in English 0754 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 18 (OANA-YONHAP)—South Korea opened an embassy in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on Monday, bringing to 140 the number of the resident overseas missions, the Foreign Ministry said.

The nations established diplomatic ties on March 26.

Choe Yong-sam is charge d'affaires and Ambassador Kwon Yong-sun will soon take up his post.

DLP Scraps National Security Law Revision

SK1406084990 Seoul YONHAP in English 0709 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—President No Tae-u and his fellow leaders of the ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) have agreed to scrap revision of the National Security Law and the law on the Agency for National Security Planning, presidential spokesman Yi Su-chung said Thursday. They decided that North Korea had not changed its attitude toward the South, Yi explained.

The two laws have been listed by the opposition and liberal groups as major obstacles to improved relations with communist North Korea.

In a breakfast meeting, No, Kim Yong-sam, Kim Chong-pil and Pak Tae-chun agreed that Seoul must "closely watch whether Pyongyang changes its strategy against Seoul since the meeting between No and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev," Yi said. The DLP leaders also shared the view that they should not make any hasty decision on revision of the two laws, Yi said.

Press reports had said the DLP was positively considering rewriting the two laws to ease restrictions on contacts and exchanges with the North in the belief that the No-Gorbachev meeting provided a favorable circumstance for lowering tension on the Korean peninsula and improved inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation.

The DLP leaders also agreed that laws on local elections, the real estate registration law, amendments to the armed forces organization law and income tax law will be approved by a special National Assembly session scheduled for late this month, the spokesman said.

Bill To Prevent Abuse of Power by Military Head

SK1406083090 Seoul YONHAP in English 0553 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Seoul, June 14 (OANA-YONHAP)—A government bill places new restraints on the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff [JCS] in a bid to prevent him from abusing power, a Defense Ministry spokesman said Thursday. The Defense Ministry will introduce an amendment to the Armed Forces Organization Law that creates a "unified command system" in which the JCS chairman has great authority, he said.

But to prevent him from misusing his power, the amendment requires him to get approval from the Defense Minister before and after mobilizing "major military units" in peace time, said Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Yi Suk-pok of JCS headquarters.

The bill, rewritten twice in the face of strong opposition from Kim Tae-chung's Party for Peace and Democracy [PPD], also requires the JCS chairman to report to the Defense Minister before he exercises "major operational authorities," Yi said. The "major military units" are a brigade in the army's Special Warfare Command, a powerful and politically sensitive unit that is usually mobilized for security operations under martial law, and division-level units in other military organizations.

The power of the JCS chairman was curtailed because of worries that it could hamper civilian rule to give him too much power under the unified command system, he said. The amendment will also give the defense minister more control of the JCS chairman to ensure civilian control of the military and administration, the spokesman said.

Nevertheless, the amendment will upgrade the ceremonial post and make the chairman a powerful military commander, analysts said.

The JCS chairman is required to hold a meeting with the top commanders of the army, navy and air force at least once a week and discuss major military command and administration matters, the spokesman said. Under the amendment, the defense minister has the final say on issues not approved unanimously by the joint chiefs, he said.

The government submitted a bill on creating a national defense headquarters, a similar integrated military command system, to the National Assembly Defense Committee, where it died due to strong opposition from the PPD. Kim Tae-chung, PPD president, warned that the new command system could make its powerful head "a Korean (Manuel Antonio) Noriega," referring to Panama's former military strongman.

The ministry revised the bill, partly modifying the system itself, to call the head of the new command the defense chief of staff. The commander of the unified command would still be called the chairman of the JCS. The spokesman said creation of the unified command would help to effectively carry out joint operations of the three branches of the military and that the ministry wants the amendment to clear the assembly soon so the unified command can go into effect Oct. 1.

A PPD report, released in a seminar on the unified command Thursday, demanded that the bill be retracted or action suspended because it lacks any device to limit the power of the JCS chairman and would hamper balanced development of the army, navy and air force. The PPD said the bill may cause conflict between the JCS chairman and chiefs of staff of the three military services over control of the command.

It also said the unified military system is part of an elaborate plot to adopt the dual executive system of government so that the Democratic Liberal Party will be able to easily retain power.

The PPD report admitted that the new military system would effectively cope with the possible weakening of the defense capability by a reduction of U.S. Forces in Korea and strengthen the unified war preparedness of the three armed services.

Burma

Information Committee Holds 95th News Conference

BK1606083390 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpts] The Information Committee of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC] held its 95th news conference with local and foreign correspondents at 1300 today in the reception hall of the Ministry of Defense. [passage omitted] At the news conference, the Information Committee explained pertinent points relating to laws and rules on the multiparty democratic general elections and the distribution of leaflets by BCP [Burma Communist Party] underground agents and illegal organizations.

Explaining laws and rules on the multiparty democratic general elections, the Information Committee said the Elections Commission on 6 June issued Announcement No. 627 on the deadline for submitting election campaign expenses and Government Announcement No. 15/90 of 7 June on the appointment of U Aung Din, director general of the Chief Court, to accept complaints on elections. [passage omitted] We have learned that after these announcements were issued, some persons and organizations alleged that they were aimless and constituted stalling tactics. The Information Committee said that while some of these persons are probably saying this because they have not studied the relevant laws and rules, there are some malicious people, although aware of the relevant laws and rules, who are deliberately spreading these allegations with the intention of creating mistrust in the people toward the SLORC government.

In relation to this matter, we would like to say the following: The SLORC government so far has not done anything in violation of the law. We shall explain the relevant laws and rules on the Elections Commission in order to prevent misunderstanding among people who have not studied these laws and rules. [passage omitted] The SLORC government, which had pledged to hold free and fair elections, was merely acting according to law in issuing these announcements after the elections were held. It can be seen clearly that the SLORC is not deliberately stalling for time. [passage omitted]

As is known to the journalists, 93 parties ran in the elections an so far, 23 parties have won seats according to the announcements of the Elections Commission. [passage omitted] With the multiparty elections, the one-party system has ended. We have nothing to say today about the one-party system. The SLORC government is a military government; it is not a party organization. Therefore, it has no rival party. It is a government that has successfully held a multiparty democratic general election in which many parties ran. Therefore, we have no rival party either before or after the elections. We treat all parties equally, and we will continue to act according to law until our responsibility is completed in the future.

Next, in explaining the distribution of BCP underground elements and illegal organizations, the Information Committee said it had already explained about BCP underground camps during the news conference on an absconding youth, Kyaw Kyaw Tun. We have learned that these BCP underground camps have been distributing illegal documents since early June just as they had done before 27 May. We have further learned that these illegal BCP leaflets originated in the Mandalay area. We had explained previously the existence of BCP underground camps and hardcore members in the Mandalay and Monywa areas. Although the BCP no longer has a considerable fighting force, they should not be underestimated. As stated at the BCP Politburo meeting, they expect a protracted war. They could reactivate themselves like the dying flame of a candle which can be rekindled when the opportunity presents itself and instigate an uprising. The current circulation of illegal documents constitutes instigation. [passage omitted]

We should not forget how the BCP underground elements and cells operated during the 1988 events. They committed acts of terror, and the situation in the country deteriorated to the extent that decapitations were carried out. Therefore, through the journalists, we would like to appeal to the people to remain vigilant and to cooperate in exposing members of the BCP who could again incite disturbances in the country. [passage omitted]

The news conference ended at 1400.

Military Spokesman Denies Stalling Tactics

BK1506141490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1354 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Rangoon, June 15 (AFP)—A military spokesman Friday [15 June] deplored what he termed completely "unfounded allegations" that Burma's ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) was stalling for time in the wake of last month's polls. Colonel Aung Thein, the deputy chief of the SLORC Information Committee, was responding to accusations the military government was stalling by resorting to aimless announcements following the multi-party elections on May 27 in which the opposition National League for Democracy party (NLD) won a landslide victory. The accusations came as the military government announced it would require candidates to submit their campaign expenses within 75 days and would accept objections from candidates claiming unfair practices during the elections.

"The SLORC has never done anything contrary to law and the announcements made are but follow-ups to the free and fair elections which we had promised to hold," Col. Aung Thein said at a regular Defence Ministry press conference. Col. Aung Thein claimed the "unfounded allegations" were being deliberately spread by "elements who bore malice towards the military government with the intention of creating mistrust towards the military."

The post-election procedures had been clearly laid-out in the election laws, he said, and it was incumbent upon the authorities to see that "everything is done in conformity with the prescribed regulations."

"We had made it clear right from the start why we were obliged to take over the state power and what we had intended to accomplish," the spokesman said, referring to the 1988 seizure of power by the military to quash massive pro-democracy protests. "The election itself has given the answer as to whether it was free and fair," the spokesman said.

Quoting the latest official figures, Col. Aung Thein said 23 parties out of 93 that contested the elections had won 390 seats in the parliament so far, clearly indicating the pluralistic nature of the elections. The spokesman made no mention of the National League for Democracy party's landslide victory.

Col Aung Thein went on to emphasize that the military "always acted exactly according to law" and had remained "strictly impartial."

The spokesman said insurgents' threats to disrupt the elections had been "insignificant" and that he expected the final results to be confirmed "more or less within the specified time."

The general election commission sources said they hoped the winners of all the 485 seats would be announced by June 23.

Khin Nyunt Explains Tasks, Transfer of Power

BK1606100190 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Major General Khin Nyunt, secretary-1 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], accompanied by Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt, commander of Yangon [Rangoon] Command; Commodore General Than Nyunt, chief of staff Navy; Brigadier General Thein Win, chief of staff of Air Force; responsible officials from th Office of the chairman of SLORC; and directors general and managing directors from departments and organizations concerned, left Yangon in military helicopters at 0720 and arrived in Kayan, Yangon Division, at 0740. [passage omitted]

Maj. Gen. Khin Nyunt and Maj. Gen. Myo Nyunt held a meeting with members of township and ward law and order restoration councils and township departmental officials in the township gymnasium in Kayan.

Speaking at the meeting, the secretary-1 said he had come to Kayan on behalf of the SLORC to inspect construction and development projects in Kayan and to learn about the peasants' agriculture situation during the cultivation season. He said he would like to speak briefly to clarify the future tasks and responsibilities of the SLORC. He said the SLORC had completed its last task—the holding of free and fair multiparty democratic general elections—successfully on 27 May and that it has been able to implement properly its four major tasks.

He said although the elections have been held successfully, the SLORC will continue to attend to the three remaining tasks—prevalence of law and order and regional peace and tranquillity, smoot and safe transport and communications, and assistance to ease people's need for food, clothes, and shelter—before the emergence of a government formed according to law. He said necessary assistance will be given toward the emergence of a government according to law. He said the public service personnel had already voted for their respective parties of their choice during the multiparty democratic general elections and that the public service personnel should not bring party politics to work. Regardless of which government comes to power, public servants are public servants, and they are to observe th service regulations and to discharge their duties properly in serving the interests of the country and the people. [passage omitted]

Continuing, the secretary-1 said there are some business sectors, subversive elements, external news services, and insurgents who are spreading unfounded rumors to discredit the government in the eyes of the people, to undermine people's unity, and to cause disintegration of the Union. He said the people should not believe these rumors. He explained that the SLORC would continue to attend to the three major tasks in the interests of the country and the people and to serve the three major duties of preserving the Union, preserving national unity, and ensuring sovereignty. [passage omitted]

Next, the secretary-1 extensively explained how the SLORC during its one and a half years in office spent 5,700 million kyat for construction and development projects in the country and worked in joint ventures with foreign concerns to systematically produce minerals and marine products. He also explained the need for constant vigilance against threats from the BCP [Burma Communist Party] and joint protective action by all.

Next, in explaining the situation of students at border areas, the secretary-1 said since it assumed responsibility, the SLORC had opened reception centers to receive students at the border areas and they are still open to receive at anytime anyone who has come to realize the correct view. He said he sympathizes with their parents and regards them like his own children and they are welcome to come back. [passage omitted]

Tin U Meets With Public Service Personnel

BK1606105790 Rangoon Domestic Service in Burmese 1330 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Excerpts] Major General Tin U, secretary of the State Law and Order Restoration Council [SLORC], met with over 500 public service personnel of the Office of the State Law and Order Restoration Council, the Office of the People's Assembly, and the Office of the President at

Room A-201 of the People's Assembly on Prome Road this afternoon. [passage omitted]

At the meeting, Maj. Gen. Tin U, secretary-2, expressed his pleasure to have the opportunity to meet with his colleagues and said he would like to speak on matters relating to public service personnel. He said the SLORC was able to effectively implement the four major tasks it had set out to do in the shortest possible time and that the last major task of holding the free and fair multiparty democratic general elections had been successfully completed. He said the service personnel had freely voted for their respective parties and candidates of their choice. He said public service personnel who are government servants must not bring political problems into their respective offices and they must be aware that they had signed pledges to keep away from party politics. [passage omitted]

He said the governments may change, but there will always be government servants who should therefore be loyal to the state. [passage omitted] He called on the public service personnel to loyally carry out their tasks with patriotic spirit and to uphold our three national causes of preventing disintegration of the Union, preventing disintegration of national unity, and ensuring lasting sovereignty. He said the failure to attend to the three causes would put our country again under servitude. [passage omitted] He said the country almost came under servitude during the past events [of 1988] when the country's unity was in disarray and the sovereignty was almost lost. We cannot not allow that kind of situation at any time. At present, the political and military situation in our country is stable and peaceful and economic and construction tasks are being carried out throughout the country, including in the border regions. [passage omitted]

He said the service personnel do not have to believe any rumors. He added all service personnel must keep abreast of the changing political and economic situation in the country. He said they must be aware of the danger the country experienced when the rumors were believed. [passage omitted] He said now that free and fair elections had been held, the service personnel are to concentrate on the three major original tasks [maintenance of law and order, smooth and safe transport and communications, easing of people's needs for food, clothes and shelter] in the spirit of patriotism and loyalty and uphold the three national causes.

The meeting ended at 1600.

Karen Rebels Threaten Death to Foreigners

BK1806085090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0839 GMT 18 Jun 90

[By Michael Adler]

[Text] Manerplaw, Burma, June 18 (AFP)—Karen rebel leader Bo Mya has threatened to assassinate Americans and other foreigners working in Burma in a hardening of strategy despite a pro-democracy victory in the Southeast Asian nation's recent general elections. "Anyone helping the Burmese Government is our enemy," General Bo Mya told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in a surprising toughening of his line after the party of populist leader Aung San Suu Kyi swept general elections in Burma May 27.

Karen troops kidnapped a young French couple in 1983 and held them for 38 days to draw international attention to their fight for regional autonomy. Young commando leaders have said in recent months that they were now ready to target Japanese or Americans.

Ms. Aung San Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy has won three-quarters of the seats in the 420-seat parliament according to official returns of the May 27 poll with the count still continuing. But the ruling military junta has so far said nothing of a transfer of power.

Gen. Bo Mya, whose 5,000-10,000-strong Karen army has been fighting in Burma's longest-running of some 12 insurgencies, said he doubted the ruling junta would hand over power to the elected party. "If they give power smoothly then there will be peace. If they don't then there will be no peace," he said at his jungle headquarters here on the Moei River marking the Thai-Burmese border, 200 kilometres northeast of Rangoon.

The portly guerrilla leader, who is in his 50's and has headed the Karen insurgency since 1975, said the foreigners had "at least one year" to heed his warning. "If they come and get understanding with us, then it's okay, no problem," he said in Karen through an interpreter. "If that fails we'll go in and assassinate them, not only Americans, anybody, all foreigners," he said. He said the targets were "company people, businessmen, not the diplomats."

"The international community can see very clearly that the present government is the worst and so we ask them not to give any help in any form to them," Gen. Bo Mya said.

The Karens have lost six bases along the river since [Rangoon regime] generals launched an offensive against them after seizing power in September 1988 to quash pro-democracy mass protests. Thousands of students fled central Burma after the coup to join the Karens, who until their defeats had almost undisputed control of lucrative teak forests and smuggling routes.

Diplomats have said the foreign-exchange-strapped Rangoon regime funded the offensive at least in part by contracts signed since the coup with Western oil companies and Thai timber and fishery firms. They were the first foreign investors since General Ne Win set up a xenophobic form of socialist dictatorship in 1962 which isolated and impoverished the resources-rich land.

American and other Western oil experts now work in Rangoon and on-shore sites in northern Burma.

Gen. Bo Mya said foreigners "come in and it is already a negative effect on the revolution. The counter action is to correct that negative action." He said the military situation has not changed since the elections. "We see that the enemy is planning as before to launch offensives."

But he said the Karens, and the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB), which groups the ethnic insurgents with majority Burman opposition groups, were ready "to match any development inside." The generals "will not hand over power easily. So there will be no peace if they refuse to hand over power. Everybody will be against the military," Gen. Bo Mya said. This could lead to a popular uprising, something for which the DAB is planning, he said.

The DAB has reconciled Burmans, the ethnic group which controls the army and government based in Rangoon, with the ethnic minorities, he said. The insurgencies began almost as soon as Burma became independent in 1948 with ethnic groups threatening to secede in their regions. The DAB seeks a federal union in which the minorities will be free to teach their own languages in schools and have other rights, DAB officials said here.

Rebels Demand 'Federal Union of States'

BK1606112290 Hong Kong AFP in English 1106 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Bangkok, June 16 (AFP)—Burma's ethnic rebels have renewed pledges to refrain from attacking government troops if Rangoon agrees to a federal union of states guaranteeing equality and self-determination for all nationalities. Rebel groups said in a statement Friday [16 June] that their proposed federal union of states should include a Burman state, a multi-party political system guaranteeing full democratic freedoms, social justice and human rights. It should also have a legislature consisting of a national assembly and a people's assembly with power shared between the central government and the states, said the statement by the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB).

The DAB is an umbrella organization for a dozen ethnic insurgent groups fighting for autonomy from the Rangoon government.

It said the immediate formation of Burma as a federal union of states would be "the main condition for the cessation of civil war and restoration of peace." It stressed that the DAB's policy was "not secessionist."

It charged the government with ignoring the need to establish a federation, trying to annihilate the insurgency and using arms to suppress what it said were legitimate political and national rights. This was "not the correct way" to end the civil war, it added.

DAB Chairman Bo Mya, who heads the Karen National Union (KNU) guerrilla army, said earlier this week during a meeting of the rebels that the DAB rejected Burma's 1947 constitution. The group said the document failed to recognize "equal rights and self-determination" for ethnic minorities, he said.

The DAB earlier called on Rangoon's military junta headed by General Saw Maung, who seized power after crushing a pro-democracy movement in September 1988, to "immediately hand over executive authority" to the National League for Democracy (NLD) party which won Burma's May 27 general elections.

DAB Rebel Forces Plan Unilateral Cease-Fire

BK1606024090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jun 90 p 5

[Text] Rebel forces under the umbrella of the Democratic Alliance of Burma (DAB) will be ordered to refrain from initiating any attack on Rangoon troops. The unilateral ceasefire decision was adopted at a meeting earlier this week of the DAB at the headquarters of the Karen National Union near the Salween River, opposite Mae Hong Son Province. About 60 key members of 21 rebel groups took part in the meeting.

"We will not shoot first unless we are provoked," explained a rebel leader.

A senior DAB military commander told the meeting that fighting between Burmese and rebel forces had subsided before the May 27 general election and the situation had remained quiet since then. Rangoon, it was reported, had ordered its troops back to towns to maintain peace and order during the election. Only minor clashes were reported around logging sites at the upper part of the Salween River. According to the senior DAB commander, Burmese troops have already returned to their barracks.

He explained that the decision to avoid contact with the Burmese troops was in line with the lull in the fighting.

A key member of the All-Burma Students Democratic Front said, however, that the dissident students were eager to carry on fighting against Rangoon forces. But since it was the desire of the DAB to stop the fighting temporarily, they had to follow suit.

The meeting also discussed other topics, including the resignation in Bangkok of General Chawalit Yongchaiyut as deputy prime minister and defence minister.

Another rebel leader, Kyaw Hla, said he didn't believe the Saw Maung regime would hand over authority to a civilian administration following the landslide victory of the National League for Democracy.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

U.S. Reportedly Will Not Withdraw GSP Status

BK0806160990 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 8 Jun 90

[Text] Malaysia is confident that trade benefits afforded it will not be withdrawn by the United States under its Generalized System of Preferences [GSP]. For Malaysia, it is clear that petitions made to withdraw GSP status will be unsuccessful whether those petitions are connected with issues of trade unions, workers rights, or marketing.

After meeting with Dr. Neal Blewett, the Australian trade negotiations minister, at her office in Kuala Lumpur today, Datuk Sri Rafidah Aziz, trade and industry minister, told journalists that the GSP petitions will have to go through the normal process. She said that considering the available facts, the U.S. Government will take no action against Malaysia.

She said there is no cause to withdraw GSP status. Datuk Sri Rafidah urged all companies and their branches currently operating in Malaysia and now receiving such benefits to use their good services to prove to the United States that GSP status should not be withdrawn.

Refugee Repatriation Talks With SRV To Begin

BK1406155490 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1430 GMT 14 Jun 89

[Text] Malaysia and Vietnam will begin talks next week to reach an agreement on the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees. Foreign Minister Datuk Abu Hassan Omar said the upcoming talks in Kuala Lumpur would be a follow-up to earlier talks held by officials of the two countries in Hanoi last January.

Malaysia hopes Vietnam will sign a memorandum of understanding on the repatriation of Vietnamese refugees later this month. The minister also told newsmen that a Vietnamese delegation, led by Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan, is scheduled to arrive in Kuala Lumpur next Thursday [21 June] to hold talks on the refugee problem. The talks will focus on refugees who are willing to be repatriated to Vietnam and how they will be repatriated.

Datuk Abu Hassan said that such repatriation will include those who are willing to return to their native country. Up to now, a total of 107 refugees have returned to Vietnam. Another 100 refugees are expected to leave within a few weeks.

Earlier, Datuk Abu Hassan met with UN High Commissioner for Refugees Thorvald Stoltenberg at the Wisma Putera office. The UN official, accompanied by three senior officials, is on a two-day visit to Malaysia as part of his ASEAN tour.

Officials on Trade, Investment in Vietnam

BK0406084590 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0735 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Kuala Lumpur, June 4 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia will set up a trade commissioner's office in Vietnam by the end of this year to further facilitate the Malaysian private sector keen on exploiting the potential of the Vietnamese market.

The deputy secretary general I of the Trade and Industry Ministry, Asmat Kamaluddin, said Monday [4 June] Malaysia hoped to establish the office in Ho Chi Minh City, the business hub of Vietnam, and was negotiating on the proposal with the Vietnamese authorities.

Speaking to newsmen after delivering the keynote address at a two-day conference on "exploiting the potential of the Vietnam market" on behalf of Trade and Industry Minister Rafidah Aziz here, Asmat identified the construction sector as one of the areas with potential for Malaysian investors to exploit in Vietnam as the country was undergoing a period of post-war reconstruction. He also anticipated Malaysia importing more rice and scrap metal from Vietnam.

Earlier, Rafidah in her speech said Malaysian manufacturers should aim at increasing exports to Vietnam, especially of semi-processed and processed goods, fabricated machinery and equipment and manufactured consumer items. [passage omitted]

Airline To Boost Flights to Vietnam

BK1106053990 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0358 GMT 11 June 90

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, June 11 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Malaysia Airlines (MAS), which has been enjoying good loads on its twice-weekly flight to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam, intends to increase the number of flights there and also use bigger aircraft.

MAS Managing Director Abdul Aziz Abdul Rahman Sunday [10 June] attributed the good passenger load enjoyed by the airline to business opportunities which had opened up in Vietnam. "The loads have increased to about 75 per cent since we started the sector in January," Aziz told newsmen after the welcoming ceremony for the inaugural Vietnam Airlines flights to Malaysia.

He said from July 1, the 146-seat B737-400 aircraft would be used for the sector instead of the 106-seat B737-200.

Aziz added that the Malaysian carrier expected to have an additional flight to Ho Chi Minh City by November and was also negotiating with the Vietnamese Government for the Hanoi route. "Malaysia has always had good trade and bilateral relations with Vietnam. Many businessmen now travel between the two countries. There are also tourists and Vietnamese immigrants visiting home who fly with MAS," he said.

On the Vietnam Airlines service to Kuala Lumpur, Aziz described it as "timely" as the aviation business between the two countries was blooming. The airline operates weekly service from Ho Chi Minh City here, using the Soviet TU-134 aircraft which can seat 70 passengers.

Vietnam Airlines Deputy Director-General Dao Minh Nhuong said he was glad that the Kuala Lumpur sector had "finally got off the ground."

"In fact, our air pact for the route was signed in 1972 but we were unable to operate it owing to a change in our government in 1975," Mr Nhuong said. He said Vietnam Airlines also flew to Singapore, Bangkok and Manila.

Mahathir on Relations With Indonesia, Singapore

BK0406134590 Kuala Lumpur RTM Television Network 1 in Malay 1200 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Text] Malaysia and Indonesia have agreed to launch a triangle cooperation with Singapore to promote tourism sector and other development programs.

[Begin Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed recording] We have identified the tourism sector in the southern part of Malaysia and Indonesia's Batam Island as one aspect of the triangle cooperation among Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore. We have agreed on the supply of food to Singapore, the issue of the Malaysian-Indonesian border in Kalimantan and the Straits of Melacca, and the marketing of Malaysia's raw materials in Indonesia, such as cocoa and palm oil. We have also agreed to an exchange of information between Malaysia and Indonesia on the marketing of certain commodities. We have clarified the political situation in Malaysia and Indonesia. [end recording]

The prime minister earlier held talks with Indonesian President Suharto at the federal capital. Several cabinet ministers were present during the talks. Information Minister Mohamed Rahmat was also present as minister-in-attendance of the Indonesian president.

Aircraft Engines To Be Serviced in Indonesia

BK1506133290 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 14 Jun 90 p 12

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Wed [13 June]—The Royal Malaysian Air Force will send its aircraft engines and propellers to Indonesia for servicing and maintenance under a new Memorandum of Understanding signed in January. Deputy Defence Minister Datuk Abang Abu Bakar Mustapha said today the RMAF [Royal Malaysian Air Force] would send its engines and propellers to the Abdul Rahman Salleh Base in Malang, Indonesia.

"Indonesia will in return send their C-130 Hercules transport aircraft to our Airod Sdn Bhd [limited company] for overhauling," he told newsmen after receiving the Indonesian Air Force Chief of Staff Air Vice-Marshall Sibun Dipatmojo who visited the Defence Ministry this morning.

Vice-Marshall Sibun, who is making his first visit to Malaysia after being appointed Chief of Staff, also met Armed Forces Chief Gen [General] Tan Sri Hashim Mohamed Ali and Air Force Chief Lt Gen [Lieutenant General] Datuk Sri Haji Mohamed Yunus Tasi.

Datuk Abang Abu Bakar said the RMAF was awaiting the green light from aircraft manufacturers before sending its aircraft to Indonesia. "We can only send our aircraft after the manufacturer has evaluated and certified the repair facilities offered by Indonesia."

Asked whether the RMAF would send all kinds of aircraft which include transport aircraft and fighter jets, Datuk Abang Abu Bakar said: "We are now looking at what kind of facilities that are available in Indonesia and whether it can meet with our standards. We will then decide." He said the RMAF lacked the facilities to overhaul and repair and manufacture engine components.

The Deputy Minister also said that the RMAF would send a batch of officers to be attached with the Indonesian Air Force within the next six months.

Peaceful Solution to Kashmir Issue Urged

BK3005145890 Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in English 1330 GMT 30 May 89

[Text] Malaysia, being a close friend of Pakistan and India, hopes that the Kashmir problem could be resolved by peaceful means. The secretary general of the Foreign Ministry, Datuk Ahmad Kamil Jaafar, said Malaysia is encouraged by the steps taken by both countries and the government hopes for the best in that their opposing views will not lead to a conflagration in the Indian subcontinent.

Replying to a question raised during his press briefing on the meeting of personal representatives of heads of government of the Group-15 countries in Kuala Lumpur, he said he would not know if Indian Prime Minister V.P. Singh would raise the Kashmir question with leaders of the Muslim countries of G-15 like Algeria, Indonesia, and Malaysia. Malaysia is a friend of both countries and Malaysia is also a member of the Commonwealth, said Datuk Ahmad Kamil when he was asked Malaysia's stand on the Kashmir issue.

Datuk Ahmad Kamil said Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed had met Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto when she was in Kuala Lumpur for the Commonwealth summit last October. He said the Malaysian prime minister would meet Mr. V.P. Singh in the next few days. Datuk Ahmad Kamil added that Malaysia's stand is that the Kashmir problem should be settled through peaceful means.

Officials Warn Against 'Sensitive' Issues

BK1406143490 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in English 13 Jun 90 p 1

[By Sabri Said]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, Tues. [12 June]—The three Sabahans who were recently detained under the Internal Security Act [ISA] are suspected to be involved in a plot to "pull out" Sabah from Malaysia.

Police today released the identities of the detainees as that of Damit Undikai, an ex-police detective; Albinus Yudah, an ex-policeman; and Banabas Tapin alias Benedict, the executive secretary of the Kadazan Dusun Cultural Association. Damit was detained on May 18 while Albinus and Banabas were arrested on May 25.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Mohamed Haniff Omar said today: "We have been monitoring their activities since 1987. We are still investigating to determine whether any foreigners are involved in the plot. "We will only act under the ISA when there is a serious threat to national security."

Asked whether the police were facing any security problems in Sabah, particularly in the coming State election, Tan Sri Haniff said:

"So far, there is no problem. However, it depends on the political parties. "They must use their common sense and refrain from bringing up any sensitive issues during their campaigns. We have laws to deal with those who refuse to do so."

Two days ago, Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr Mahathir Mohamed told political parties in Sabah to refrain from fanning antifederal issues to win votes during the election campaign. "The Prime Minister's advice should be seriously adhered to," Tan Sri Haniff told reporters during a blood donation campaign in which 99 police officers and men donated blood at the office of the camp commandant at the Federal police headquarters in Bukit Aman. The donors included CID [Criminal Investigation Department] director Datuk Zaman Khan.

Tan Sri Haniff said Internal Security and Public Order director Datuk Ang Phaik Chin was studying a request by the Sabah Government for additional Federal Reserve Unit and Public Order Reserve Unit personnel to be stationed there during the election period.

The new format of counting the votes at polling centres would mean that police would require more men for deployment on election duties, he said. "Our manpower resources will be quite tight but we can manage."

He said the Sabah election would give the police a chance to study the new system before it is implemented in the next general election.

Singapore

Indonesian Air Marshal Arrives for Visit

BK1506114190 Singapore Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The chief of Staff of the Indonesian Air Force, Air Marshal Sibun, is in Singapore for a three-day official visit. The Defense Ministry said this is his first visit to the republic since taking up his current appointment. It adds that the visit reflects the close ties between the SAF [Singapore Armed Forces] and the Indonesian Armed Forces. Air Marshal Sibun will call on the minister for trade and industry and second minister for defense (services), Brigadier-General Lee Hsien Loong. He will also will meet SAF defense forces chief, Lieutenant-Colonel Winston Choo and the chief of the air force, Brigadier-General Michael Teo.

Indian Nationals Arrested; Heroin Seized

BK1706142690 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Text] Singapore, June 17 (AFP)—Singapore narcotics officers arrested four Indian nationals and a Singaporean and seized 30 kilogrammes (66 pounds) of opium and 1.2 kilos (2.6 pounds) of heroin hidden in sealed cans, the Central Narcotics Bureau said Sunday. The suspects were believed to be part of a syndicate smuggling drugs from India, the bureau said.

The Singaporean and one of the Indians will be charged Monday with drug trafficking, which carries a mandatory death penalty on conviction. The bureau did not say what would happen to the remaining three Indians.

The bureau's deputy director, Hardial Singh, said the drugs were sealed in 41 cans with food labels, which were brought into the Republic through Changi Airport Thursday. He said 30 of the cans contained opium, while heroin was found in two of them and the remaining nine contained food.

Mr. Singh said two members of the syndicate tried to sell half—about 15 kilograms—of the drugs to an undercover narcotics agent Saturday, but were arrested at a hotel. The remaining members of the syndicate were arrested and the rest of the drug seized in a follow-up operation.

Under Singapore's tough anti-drug laws, the death sentence is mandatory for anyone convicted of possessing more than 15 grams (half an ounce) of heroin and more than 1,200 grams (2.6 pounds) of opium.

Goh Chok Tong on Forthcoming Premiership

BK1106120190 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 11 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Mr Goh Chok Tong has said that although he would practise collective responsibility after taking over as Prime Minister, he would be making the final decisions and would not rule by "counting hands" in the Cabinet. He made it clear that his role would be to set policy directions and act as the final arbiter on all major decisions even if it meant going along with the minority in the Cabinet.

The First Deputy Prime Minister, who succeeds Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew at the end of this year, made these comments in a two-hour interview with a team of Taiwanese journalists recently. The transcript of the interview, which was conducted in English, was translated into Chinese and published in major newspapers in Taiwan yesterday.

The interviewer from the United Daily News, a leading Chinese-language daily there, prefaced the transcript with a comment that during the interview, Mr Goh "fully demonstrated his confidence in policy-making and was sincere and approachable".

In the wide-ranging interview, Mr Goh also talked about Singapore-Taiwan relations after the republic establishes ties with Beijing, Mr Lee's role after retiring from premiership and the need for Singapore to pay more attention to the arts.

According to the Chinese-language transcript, Mr Goh was asked what his role would be in a future Cabinet that practised collective leadership. He replied that his job would be to set policy directions, explore new grounds and act as a final arbiter on policies involving more than one ministry.

Disclosing that he had, in the past few years, been meeting Cabinet members other than Mr Lee prior to Cabinet meetings, he said such interactions enabled the second-generation leaders to discuss policies in depth before these were finalised by the Cabinet.

"The future Cabinet will continue to enhance interactions among the ministers along this direction," he said.

"But policies will never be made by counting hands in the Cabinet. The point is to allow every view full expression, but not necessarily to go by the majority." Asked if that meant that he would be the final arbiter should the Cabinet split over an issue, he said: "Yes. Even if it means having to go along with the minority view."

Arguing that this was not in conflict with the idea of collective responsibility, he said it was only natural that Cabinet members did not always agree over a major issue. "But once a decision is made, every Cabinet member is expected to stand by it, or he will have to resign. And this final decision must be made by me," he said.

"If I am in the minority, I believe I will still enjoy the Cabinet's confidence. Of course, if I make too many mistakes, my position as Prime Minister will be jeopardised."

Replying to a question on the election of the proposed elected President which the interviewers said "would be held next year", Mr Goh said that the election might even take place before next year, depending on the progress of the Constitution Amendment Bill in Parliament. But he reiterated that although the elected President would be kept informed of policy-making in the Cabinet, the Prime Minister would decide on the formulation and implementation of policies.

Cambodia

Hun Sen Sends SNC List to Sihanouk 13 Jun

*BK1406122190 Phnom Penh SPK in French
1108 GMT 14 Jun 90*

[Text] Phnom Penh, 14 Jun (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, sent a letter on Wednesday [13 June] to Prince Norodom Sihanouk informing him of the list of the State of Cambodia's six representatives to the Supreme National Council [SNC].

Following is the full text of the letter:

"Respected Samdech,

"In implementation of the joint communique we recently signed in Tokyo, I have the honor to send you the following list of the State of Cambodia's representatives to the SNC:

1. Mr. Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers;
2. Gen. [General] Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of national defense;
3. Kong Sam-ol, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and minister of the Council of Ministers cabinet;
4. Hor Nam Hong, minister, adviser to the chairman of the Council of Ministers;
5. Gen. Sin Song, minister of the interior; and
6. Chem Snguon, member of the Standing Committee of the National Assembly and chairman of the Legislative Commission of the National Assembly.

"I would be very grateful if you send me, when possible, the list of the National Government of Cambodia's representatives to this supreme organ.

"In order to put an early end to hostilities and achieve a global political solution and national reconciliation, I would like to propose that the SNC be convened as early as possible after its 12 members, representing the two governments, are nominated. The place and date of the meeting will be decided by the agreement of both sides.

"Please, respected Samdech, accept the assurances of my high regards and my respect."

Sihanouk 'Unable' To Name Six Representatives

BK1706035090 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jun 90 p 4

[Text] Prince Norodom Sihanouk yesterday indicated to Phnom Penh Premier Hun Sen that he is unable to name six representatives to the Supreme National Council [SNC]. The prince, in a letter made available to the BANGKOK POST yesterday, said that according to a statement by the guerrilla faction led by nationalist leader Son Sann, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) is expected to name two representatives to the SNC in a couple of days. Sihanouk told Hun Sen that the KPNLF would only name two representatives because it wanted to respect the rights of the Khmer Rouge.

After the Khmer Rouge decided not to attend the Tokyo talks, it was suggested that the Sihanoukists and the KPNLF send three representatives each to the SNC. If the Khmer Rouge decides later to join the SNC, then a representative of each non-communist faction will step down.

Sihanouk and Hun Sen signed an agreement in Tokyo last week calling for voluntary restraint from hostilities by all of Cambodia's warring factions. But the most powerful faction, the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge, has said it is not bound by the accord.

The two leaders also agreed to jointly form the SNC "to symbolise Cambodia's neutrality, national sovereignty and national unity" to help pave the way for elections. It was understood that the SNC will comprise six members from the Phnom Penh government and two each from each resistance faction.

The prince informed Hun Sen that the Sihanoukists would also name only two persons to the SNC, namely Prince Norodom Ranariddh and Chausen Kosal-Chhum. He said a third person—Gen [General] Duong Sam-ol—will be a reserve member—attending the SNC in place of the two other members if either one falls ill or is unable to attend the SNC.

The prince reminded Hun Sen that the resistance government was the sole and legal government of Cambodia. He also told Hun Sen that the participation of Ranariddh and Kosal-Chhum did not commit the resistance, adding that the SNC could not symbolise the sovereignty, independence and unity of Cambodia unless it was represented by the four warring factions, including the Khmer Rouge.

Meanwhile, UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL reported that the KPNLF yesterday appealed to the Phnom Penh government to release all its political prisoners to show a good sign of national reconciliation. "The KPNLF appeals to the Phnom Penh administration set up by the Vietnamese invading forces in 1978, to show its good faith and release all the political prisoners," said a press release issued by the KPNLF's office in Bangkok. The release of political prisoners detained under various pretences without trial would be described "as a demonstration of its good will toward democracy and national reconciliation", it said. It said the prisoners had been arrested since the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia which ousted the Khmer Rouge in early 1979. It said some of the prisoners were arrested "even quite recently".

The statement said Son Sann called on the four Cambodian factions to have a quadripartite technical meeting before next month's meeting on Cambodia of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council in Paris. It said a four-party meeting would re-examine the ceasefire, the UN role, the 12th century ruins of Angkor Wat, and the formula for the Supreme National Council—a body comprising representatives of the fo[illegible] factions to administer the country before the elections. "The convening of this proposed quadripartite technical meeting is by far not a pre-condition to the formation of the SNC," it said.

Hun Sen Receives Sihanouk Letter on SNC

BK1806060690 Phnom Penh SPK in French 0431 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Phnom Penh, 18 Jun (SPK)—Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia, has just received from Prince Norodom Sihanouk a letter dated 16 June dealing with the problem concerning the representatives of the "National Government of Cambodia" to the supreme national council.

In his letter, the prince quoted Ieng Muli as saying on behalf of the KPNLF [Son Sann's Khmer People's National Liberation Front] that his faction would send only two representatives (instead of three) to the "supreme council," for one must respect the right of the PDK (Party of Democratic Kampuchea) which as a matter of fact has the right to two seats in the "council."

The letter said: "Taking into account the position adopted by the KPNLF in reserving two seats for the PDK, the FUNCINPEC [Sihanouk's National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] has the honor to inform you that it (the FUNCINPEC), too, will send only two representatives to the "supreme council," namely His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, general secretary of FUNCINPEC, and His Excellency Chausen Kosal, known as Chhum, former chairman of the Cambodian National Assembly."

Prince Sihanouk stressed that Duong Sam-ol, a former minister of the GRUNC [Sihanouk's in-exile Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in the 1970-75 period], "will be an alternate representative," who will replace Ranariddh or Chhum Kosal in case they could not join the "supreme council" for health or any other reason.

"Thus, two seats at the "council" will always remain available to the PDK," the letter specified.

Son Sann Designates Representatives to SNC

BK1806071190 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] His Excellency Son Sann, president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], has appointed two representatives from the KPNLF side to take part in establishing the supreme national council [SNC] and another person as an alternate representative to this SNC. According to a letter that His Excellency Son Sann sent to His Royal Highness Norodom Sihanouk on 17 June, the two personages assigned to participate in forming the SNC are:

1. Mr. Ieng Muli, general secretary of the KPNLF Executive Committee and delegate of the Executive Committee in charge of Justice Ministry;
2. Mr. Son Soubert, delegate of the KPNLF Executive Committee in charge of Foreign Affairs.

Another delegate to join as the alternate member is General Chum Chieng, delegate of the KPNLF Executive Committee in charge of Internal Affairs.

His Excellency Son Sann also stressed in this letter that the KPNLF's participation in the establishment of the SNC was out of its sole desire for peace to quickly return to Cambodia. However, he added that the KPNLF wants any resolution of the SNC to be decided upon with the unanimous agreement of all members.

Resistance Reportedly Liberates Kompong Thom

BK1706235390 (Clandestine) Voice of the National Army of Democratic Kampuchea in Cambodian 2315 GMT 17 Jun 90

["Special Report on Attack and Complete Liberation of Kompong Thom Town"]

[Text] At 0500 on 17 June, our national resistance forces attacked, destroyed, and completely liberated Kompong Thom Town. Along with this, we attacked, destroyed, and liberated the district town of Kompong Svay at the junction of National Route 6 and Route 12 as well. Furthermore, we also routed and took control of the areas from Kakaoh Village and Phnum Santuk to the Kompong Thom provincial town.

Long live the Cambodian national resistance forces.

Spokesman on Activity

BK1806003990 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Forces loyal to Prince Norodom Sihanouk said yesterday they were fighting off a Phnom Penh counteroffensive following their capture of the strategic provincial town of Kompong Thom in central Cambodia. A spokesman for the non-communist resistance faction, Ek Sereywath, said the capture yesterday morning of Kompong Thom was crucial because it meant that three provinces — Siem Reap, Oddar Meanchey and Phrea Vihear—would be cut off from Phnom Penh.

A Western diplomat said that if the Sihanoukists could hold Kompon Thom, the capture would be a "major gain" for the resistance.

Mr Ek said that about 8 a.m. yesterday, three brigades of the National Army of Independent Kampuchea (ANKI) launched a three-pronged attack against the provincial town. After three hours of fighting, the 1st, 15th and 27th brigades, using mainly recoilless guns, captured Kompong Thom, about 100 km north of Phnom Penh, he said.

The spokesman did not say how many Sihanoukist soldiers were involved in the fighting but claimed there were about 1,000 Phnom Penh defenders, mainly police units under the Interior Ministry.

Phnom Penh troops launched a counterattack. Fighting was still going on at noon and Hun Sen reinforcements were being sent to the area, said Mr Ek. "We have not been able to communicate with the commanders in the field because of rain and bad weather," Mr Ek said last night. "Fighting is still going on but we should have more details tomorrow (today)," he said.

If the Sihanoukists could hold Kompong Thom, they would be able to control National Route 6 and cut of the provincial seat of Siem Reap from Phnom Penh, said Mr Ek. The capture of Kompong Thom would also mean that two other provincial seats—Phrea Vihear and Oddar Meanchey—would be cut off from the Cambodian capital. Also, Phnom Penh would not be able to send reinforcements to Phrea Vihear with the capture of Kompong Thom, he said.

The attack on Kompong Thom was made successful because of support from Cambodian civilians in the province as well as the low morale of Phnom Penh troops drafted to defend the provincial town, said Mr Ek. The town's capture means the resistance now controls the whole province and can continue its offensive in other crucial provinces surrounding Phnom Penh such as Kompong Chhnang and Komnpong Cham, said Mr Ek.

When the Lon Nol regime was fighting the Khmer Rouge in 1971, it was defeated in Kompong Thom, he said. "This marked the turning point in the fighting. The same thing has happened now," said Mr Ek.

A Western diplomat confirmed there had been considerable fighting in the area for the past several weeks.

If the resistance could hold the provincial seat, it would be a major gain, he said. The resistance was able to capture the district seat of Staung and hold it for about two and a half weeks before Phnom Penh attacked and recaptured it, the diplomat said.

Although the fall of Kompong Thom would not result in the total isolation of Phrea Vihear, Siem Reap and Oddar Meanchey, its capture would mean that Phnom

Penh would have to supply these provinces through National Route 5 which runs on the other side of the Tonle Sap, the diplomat said. This would mean going through Kompong Spoe where there is considerable activity by the Khmer Rouge.

If Phnom Penh wanted to recapture Kompong Thom, it would be able to do so, but would be faced with a decision of how large a force to commit to the counterattack which would involve moving forces from other areas, the diplomat said. Part of the resistance's strategy is to keep Phnom Penh forces "thin and spread out," he said. If the Sihanoukists are able to hold the central provincial town it would be a feather in the cap for its commander Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the diplomat said.

Forces Reportedly Withdraw

BK1806070390 (Clandestine) Voice of the Khmer in Cambodian 0430 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] According to a report that the Voice of the Khmer newsroom has received from the Khmer People's National Liberation Front [KPNLF], the KPNLF army and independent Cambodia's national army cooperated in attacking and liberating Kompong Thom town, which they controlled for over an hour on Sunday, 17 June. The report said that the two nationalist armies withdrew after controlling the Kompong Thom provincial town, provincial market, and the Spean Prey Thom township for over an hour.

Conflicting Claims on Control of Kompong Thom

BK1806102090 Hong Kong AFP in English 1003 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] Bangkok, June 18 (AFP)—The powerful Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge said Monday [18 June] its guerrillas had seized control of a major provincial town on the outer defense perimeter of Cambodia's capital of Phnom Penh. The Khmer Rouge, in a clandestine radio broadcast monitored here, said its guerrillas Sunday had "completely liberated" Kompong Thom, a strategic provincial capital 160 kilometers north of Phnom Penh by road. The seizure of Kompong Thom was also announced late Sunday in a statement here from the office of Prince Norodom Sihanouk.

Guerrillas loyal to the prince are one of two factions allied to the Khmer Rouge, fanatical Marxists who ruled Cambodia in the late 1970s, in an uneasy guerrilla coalition fighting Phnom Penh's Vietnam-installed government.

But an informed source in Cambodia, citing Defence Ministry officials, denied the claims and said Phnom Penh troops were in control of Kompong Thom as of Sunday night.

In a new statement Monday, the prince's office again said his forces had captured Kompong Thom. Nonetheless, he added that "due to the large civilian population living in the city and for security reasons, our forces evacuated and withdrew to the surrounding positions of the town around noon (Sunday)."

Ek Sereivoat, a spokesman for the faction, said despite the evacuation, the guerrillas had retained control of Kompong Thom, whose population he estimated at "maybe as much as 50,000." The evacuation, he said, was decided to allow guerrillas to screen people fleeing Kompong Thom and arrest those who may be government soldiers in civilian clothes.

Western diplomats stressed that Khmer Rouge battlefield reports, although frequently exaggerated, were usually based on fact. It was also possible that elements from both the Khmer Rouge and Prince Sihanouk's guerrilla force had been involved in the attack on the city, one diplomat said. The diplomat, who asked not to be identified, said there had been "a steady build-up of guerrilla activity initiated by the Khmer Rouge about three months ago" in the Kompong Thom sector, an area which controls communication links between Phnom Penh and the northern part of Cambodia.

If confirmed, the fall of Kompong Thom would represent a major setback for Phnom Penh only days after its prime minister, Hun Sen, signed an accord in Tokyo with Prince Sihanouk to voluntarily restrain from the use of force. The Khmer Rouge, ousted from Phnom Penh by the Vietnamese in early 1979, rejected the Tokyo agreement.

The capture of Kompong Thom would also mark the first significant guerrilla victory in Cambodia's just-started rainy season which was likely to hamper the movement of Phnom Penh's mechanized units and heavy artillery, observers said.

The Khmer Rouge radio said the faction's guerrillas had also seized control of Kompong Svay, a few kilometers north of Kompong Thom. Kompong Svay is where the city's airfield is located but the radio made no mention of its fate.

The source in Cambodia, who was reached by telephone from Hanoi, also denied these claims.

Mr. Ek, the spokesman for Prince Sihanouk's faction here, said the attack on Kompong Thom had been launched by 1,450 guerrillas belonging to the non-communist faction. There were still many civilians left in the city when it was taken, he said, adding government forces defending the town numbered about 1,000. Mr. Ek declined to comment on whether Khmer Rouge fighters were involved.

All Kompong Thom Province was now under the control of anti-Phnom Penh forces following the fall of the provincial seat, he said. He said Khmer Rouge forces and guerrillas of the prince's group were also intensifying their attacks in Siem Reap, 150 kilometers to the northwest of Kompong Thom, a market town adjoining the ancient Angkor temple complex, the symbol of the

Cambodian nation. The Khmer Rouge radio also reported fighting in other key sectors—Kompong Speu, some 50 kilometers to the southwest of Phnom Penh, Kompong Cham, a major town on the Mekong River to the northeast of the capital, and Takeo, some 80 kilometers to the south.

Indonesia

Paper Hails Outcome of Tokyo Talks on Cambodia

BK1606055590 Jakarta MERDEKA in Indonesian 7 Jun 90 p 5

[Editorial: "The Tokyo Joint Communique: A Step Forward"]

[Text] Talks between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the exiled Cambodian resistance coalition, produced a joint communique. We must admit that the talks were successful even though they fell short of the expectations of the international community. Moreover, what took place in Tokyo was obviously a step forward compared to the previous talks on the Cambodian conflict, because Japan as the host country and Thailand as the sponsor courageously got the two "governments" to meet each other in Tokyo.

Earlier, Japanese officials consistently maintained that the talks would not be between the four factions but between the two Cambodian governments—the exiled Cambodian government led by Norodom Sihanouk and the Cambodian Government of Prime Minister Hun Sen in Phnom Penh. In fact, although the Khmer Rouge faction refused to be bound by the joint communique signed by Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk, it could do nothing thanks to leverage from China and the United States.

Thailand itself, which sponsored the talks between Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk in Tokyo, said that it would no longer forgive the Khmer Rouge. Thus, the Khmer Rouge have been further isolated following the Tokyo talks, and we are confident that China, too, will realize their condition.

Hopes for a durable solution to the Cambodian conflict have resurfaced following political developments in Tokyo where Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk moved closer to each other. Countries that have yet to formally recognize the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh have implicitly abandoned their stance. It is now up to the two warring sides to create concrete conditions for a cease-fire before forming by the end of July a supreme national council charged with preparing a plebiscite in Cambodia to establish a permanent popular Cambodian government. In this connection, the hard work of Prime Minister Hun Sen and Norodom Sihanouk will be tested.

In addition, countries such as Japan, Thailand, China, and the United States, which contributed to the issuance of the joint communique minus the Khmer Rouge, cannot stand idle. They must at least maintain the credit point [preceding two words in English] they have already gained. In this connection, if the five [permanent] members of the UN Security Council want to further encourage this first step, the Cambodian seat will have to be vacated until a popular Cambodian government is born of general elections. Refusal to vacate the seat will in fact be tantamount to the UN Security Council indirectly maintaining a "division" within the Cambodian nation.

We salute and appreciate the Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh for its willingness to recognize the UN-recognized exiled government led by Sihanouk. The world community truly knows that the exiled Cambodian government is de facto not a real government.

Just imagine! The international community does not know where the capital of the exiled Cambodian government is. What is the composition of this government? How does it operate? Who else sits on the cabinet of the exiled Cambodian government in addition to Norodom Sihanouk, Son Sann, and Khieu Samphan, whose name is occasionally mentioned?

The international community, particularly the European Community, has in fact decided it will withdraw recognition of the exiled Cambodian government led by Norodom Sihanouk in the United Nations if the Cambodian conflict is not settled by the end of 1990. This is also a clear indication that the international community cannot afford to continue to turn a blind eye to the existence of the present Cambodian Government in Phnom Penh.

In the Cambodian conflict, which has dragged on for almost 11 years, there are still many countries that cannot identify the UN-recognized Cambodian government comprising a coalition of three Cambodian factions. Thus, the issue of the Khmer Rouge is in fact not a matter of UN member countries.

The United Nations should instead discuss: Who truly leads the Cambodian government which it recognizes? Is Norodom Sihanouk still in charge or already replaced by another person? Why is the Cambodian seat in the United Nations not immediately vacated to give all Cambodians an opportunity to elect and establish their government if no one is in charge?

With this reasoning, the international community, too, must adopt a realistic stand to enable the comprehensive settlement of the Cambodian conflict. The Cambodian conflict must in fact be seen as an Asian matter or problem. Accordingly, Asians must first be allowed to settle it.

In this connection, we are very confident of the highly decisive roles Indonesia, Vietnam, China, and Japan can play. Two nations from continental Asia and two others from the non-continental or archipelagic region will be able to comprehensively settle the Cambodian conflict. Talks between the four Asian nations would be possible following the positive political climate in Tokyo. It is now up to the four Asian nations to see whether they themselves still have problems to be settled.

Suharto Meets With UN Refugee Commissioner

BK1606065590 Jakarta Domestic Service in Indonesian 0600 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] President Suharto has said that Indonesia wants clear criteria on the status of Vietnamese refugees to avoid ambiguity between genuine refugees who have different political beliefs and refugees who merely seek a better life. The head of state said this during a meeting with Thorvald Stoltenberg, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, at Bina Graha, Jakarta this morning.

On the occasion, Stoltenberg thanked President Suharto for his willingness to accommodate about 16,000 Vietnamese refugees in Indonesia. Several countries, which have accepted Vietnamese refugees, say they will accept only genuine refugees who have left their country for having different political beliefs.

Alatas Calls for Solution to Refugee Problem

BK1606095090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0916 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Jakarta, June 16 (AFP)—Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas on Saturday [16 June] urged the international community to do more to solve the growing problem of Indochinese refugees now flooding many Asian countries. "There must be a solution, not only bilaterally between the first asylum nation and the country of origin, but there must be a multilateral agreement," Mr. Alatas said after meeting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Thorvald Stoltenberg here.

Mr. Alatas said the number of Cambodian and Vietnamese "boat people" in Galang, an island south of Singapore designated as a refugee centre, had swollen to 18,000 while its housing facilities were designed for only 5,000. "This cannot go on forever," he said, adding that a Comprehensive Plan of Action (CPA), a program created at the United Nations in Geneva last year to tackle the refugee problem, should also deal with the question of Cambodians. The CPA deals solely with Vietnamese and called for countries like Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia to continue to act as first asylum centres. It also tightened its screening process to determine who qualified as refugees and who should be resettled in third countries. Those screened out would be repatriated.

Mr. Stoltenberg said he did not see any problem with the process of resettling those who qualified as refugees but admitted that repatriation was posing a "real challenge." He commended Indonesia for its continued commitment to uphold the first asylum principle under what he described as difficult circumstances.

Mr. Stoltenberg arrived from Kuala Lumpur Friday [15 June] and was due to fly to Tokyo later Saturday. He will also visit Manila and New York before returning to Geneva, UNHCR officials here said.

Religious Group, Bank Sign Cooperation Accord

BK1506114590 Jakarta KOMPAS in Indonesian 2 Jun 90 p 1

[Excerpt] Jakarta, KOMPAS—Two major powers, one a socio-religious organization, namely the Nahdlatul Ulama, and the other a strong business group, namely the Summa Bank, have agreed to establish 200 BPRs [People's Credit Banks] with 60 percent of the equity owned by the Nahdlatul Ulama, represented by Dunia Duta Perintis Limited Company, and 40 percent owned by the Summa Bank. The two plan to establish 30 to 50 BPRs this year.

The ceremony to sign the cooperation agreement, which attracted wide media coverage, was held in Jakarta on Friday [1 June] and attended by KH Abdurrahman Wahid, chairman of the Nahdlatul Ulama Board of Executives, and Edward Suryajaya, the president of the Summa Bank. The ceremony was also attended by William Suryajaya, owner of the Astra Group, concurrently a commissioner of the Summa Bank. Also present were officials of the Nahdlatul Ulama Boards of Executives, government officials, and businessmen, including Sukamdani Sahid Gitosarjono, owner of the Sahid Group.

"I have had a dream that 20 years from now, the Nahdlatul Ulama will have established BPRs in 2,000 subdistricts. This is a dream for an individual who wishes to work for the nation's better welfare through upgrading the economic life of ordinary people, especially in the rural areas," said Abdurrahman Wahid, whose nickname is Gus Dur. [passage omitted]

Laos

Chaleun Yiapaoheu Lectures on Draft Constitution

Introduction

BK0706030190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 2 Jun 90

[Radio lecture on draft constitution given on 2 June by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly, and standing member of the Constitution Drafting Committee—recorded]

[Summary] "I am honored to be allowed to talk to you, through this national radio station today, to discuss and contribute views on the first draft constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR]. I would like to inform you, listeners, that the purpose of the presentation and the explanation, in depth, of the contents of the draft constitution is to enable you to study, discuss, and then contribute views on it. I, therefore, would like to ask you to make use of your radios or find time to join those who have radios in listening to this program in order to understand the contents of the draft constitution so you can then contribute proper views on it.

"I now would like to begin discussing the issues in which you are interested and on which you have asked questions. The questions you have asked are: Why does our nation have to promulgate the constitution now? What are the contents of the draft constitution? First of all, let me tell you why our nation is promulgating the constitution now.

"As you are aware, it has been almost 15 full years since the establishment of the LPDR, and during the period, our people have scored great achievements in many fields, thereby securely defending the country, building the new system, and increasingly developing the life of our people. All these require that we have the constitution. On the other hand, the reason why our party, state, and nation are preparing to promulgate the constitution is that the conditions are now ripe. The first condition is that our country has gained independence and maintained full democratic rights and sovereignty. Besides, our country has scored great achievements in the cause of national salvation struggle as well as the cause of national defense struggle. It is, therefore, necessary for us to maintain a constitution to guarantee and acknowledge the achievements of our Lao nation.

"The second condition is that through the implementation of the two strategic tasks, namely the defense of the country and the building of the new system, our country has now effected new changes—our national economy and society have been developed, the people's living conditions have been daily improved, and our domestic and foreign relations have been broadened with each passing day, meaning the line, plans, and policies of the party have been effectively applied to the practical life of our Lao society. A constitution, therefore, must be promulgated to guarantee these new changes.

"The third and last condition is that our multiethnic Lao people have now become genuine owners of the country. Being owners of the country, we therefore need rights to mastery, and the rights to mastery can be adopted only through a constitution and guaranteed by laws.

"The purpose of the promulgation of the constitution is to serve the requirements of the multiethnic Lao people of all strata who want to manage the country through the enforcement of the constitution and laws."

Some people may wonder why the constitution was not promulgated right after the establishment of the LPDR. I believe that it was not appropriate to promulgate the constitution at that time, because the establishment of the constitution is considered a great issue related to all domestic and foreign policies of the party as well as to all political, economic, and cultural life of the entire Lao nation and to the rights and benefits of all Lao citizens. For this reason, it is necessary for us to maintain a certain basis of understanding and to firmly grasp the reality of the Lao society before drafting the constitution. Under these conditions, during the past 15-year period we accumulated various basic factors and prepared various conditions for use in establishing the draft constitution. Now, we are preparing to promulgate the constitution.

"The second major issue that you are interested in is about the contents of the draft constitution. This is the first draft constitution of the LPDR. It consists of the introduction which is published on the front page and ten chapters comprising 73 articles of contents. The first chapter deals with the political system. It is the chapter which stipulates comprehensive basic issues, in particular the main characteristics and the true nature of political system of our LPDR. The second chapter deals with the socioeconomic system. It defines everything concerning the socioeconomic system. The third chapter deals with the rights and obligations of citizens, the fourth chapter with the Supreme People's Assembly, the fifth chapter with the presidency, the sixth chapter with the Council of Ministers, the seventh chapter with the people's councils and local administrative committees, the eighth chapter with the people's courts and the people's judiciary institute, the ninth chapter with the letters, languages, national emblem, national flag, and capital, and the tenth and last chapter deals with rights to amend the constitution."

Now, I would like to discuss the introduction which is a significant part in the draft constitution. The introduction consists of only five paragraphs. However, it comprehensively contains the traditions, history, and survival of our Lao nation since ancient times. It also defines the path of advance in the bright future of our entire nation.

"Details of the introduction are as follows: The first paragraph reads: The multiethnic Lao people have survived and developed in this beloved land for thousands of years. More than six centuries ago, during the time of Prince Ngeum, our ancestors established the unified Lan Xang country and built it into a prosperous country. This paragraph is the main paragraph comprising two significant points of contents. The first point reiterates that the Lao people have, for a long time, survived in this part of land. Another significant point says that the Lao Lan Xang country was founded by our ancestor, namely Prince Ngeum, who gathered various small kingdoms and various groups of Lao nationals and then established the kingdom. This paragraph proves the historic fact of our nation."

Paragraph two stipulates that since the 18th century, the Lao land had been repeatedly threatened and invaded by various outside powers. It stipulates that the multiethnic Lao people had promoted and expanded the heroic and resolute traditions of their ancestors and continually fought persistently to gain independence and freedom for the nation.

"The third paragraph stipulates that over the past more than 60 years, under the correct leadership of the former Indochinese Communist Party and the present Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP], the multiethnic Lao people heroically carried out a difficult struggle until they crushed the yoke of domination and oppression of the colonialists, imperialists, and feudalists, completely liberated the country, and established the LPDR, thus ushering in the new era—an era of the building and development of the Lao fatherland and an era in which the multiethnic Lao people genuinely maintain the rights of being owners of the country. This paragraph three reiterates facts in the 60-year-old history. It comprises two significant points of contents. The first one reiterates that over the past more than 60 years, our country had been invaded by both old and new colonialists. Another point reiterates that over the past more than 60 years, under the leadership of the former Indochinese Communist Party and in particular the present LPRP, the Lao people, closely uniting around the party and enhancing the heroic traditions of our ancestors, have carried out the national salvation struggle against the imperialists, liberated the country, and marched forward to establishing the LPDR on 2 December 1975.

"The fourth paragraph stipulates that in the recent period, the multiethnic Lao people have together implemented the two strategic tasks of defending the country and building a new life, thereby scoring satisfactory achievements in the initial stage. However, after entering the period of setting up new principles in accordance with the popular democratic system, the social life now requires a constitution."

"Paragraph five stipulates that the constitution to be promulgated is the first constitution of our country under the popular democratic system, and that it reiterates the past achievements of the revolution and reiterates the objectives to be fulfilled, namely peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity of the country." Regarding this, you may see that it is apparent that there are changes in the objectives. You may ask why it is stipulated in the constitution that the objectives are peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity while at present the objectives are peace, independence, unification, and socialism. The answer to this question is that based on the present revolutionary conditions, it is required that the popular democratic system be consolidated, promoted, and perfected in advance to socialism step by step. To conform to the practical revolutionary conditions in our country, it is, therefore, stipulated in the draft constitution that it is imperative to achieve the objectives of peace, independence, democracy, unification, and prosperity. Prosperity here means socialist prosperity."

Article 1

BK1306152590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 3 Jun 90

[Radio lecture on draft constitution given on 3 June by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly, and standing member of the Constitution Drafting Committee—recorded]

[Summary] "This chapter begins with Article 1, which states: The Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] is a popular democratic state under the leadership of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party [LPRP]. "Article 1 is composed of two important phrases—the first phrase: a popular democratic state and the second one: under the leadership of the LPRP."

The reasons the LPDR is called a popular democratic state are as follows:

1. The entire state power in our country is under the control of our people who are the genuine owners of the country. The entire state power belongs to the people and is exercised through the Supreme People's Assembly, the people's councils at all levels, the administrative committees at all levels, the people's courts, the people's judiciary bodies, and other state organs.
2. The people exercise their rights in electing state power organs at all levels under the principles of generalization, equality, directness, and secret voting. "The principle of generalization means that any Lao citizens who are 18 years or older are eligible to vote in elections and who are 21 years or older are eligible to stand in elections. The principle of equality means that all citizens who have the rights to vote and to stand in elections also have equal rights in voting to elect their representatives. The principle of directness means that each citizen must mark and cast the ballot and drop it in the ballot box himself without going through anyone. The principle of secret voting means that Lao citizens elect their representatives themselves in accordance with their own aspirations."

3. Our state does not belong to any particular class of people. It belongs to the multiethnic Lao people comprising workers, farmers, handicraftsmen, small proprietors, national capitalists, and businessmen, and intellectuals with workers, farmers, and revolutionary intellectuals as principal elements.

"The draft constitution stipulates that the state is under the leadership of the party. This is because our multiethnic Lao people have faithfully remained under the leadership of the LPRP." It has been known that our multiethnic Lao people are freedom-loving people who have rallied under the national united front founded and controlled by the party. The front was called Neo Lao Itsala in the past and it is now called the Lao Front for National Construction. Therefore, it is extremely appropriate to stipulate in this article that the state is under the leadership of the party.

Articles 3-6

BK1706091790 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 4 Jun 90

[Radio lecture on draft constitution given on 4 June by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly, and standing member of the Constitution Drafting Committee—recorded]

[Summary] "Article 3 says: All powers in the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR] belong to the multiethnic people of all strata and social statuses namely workers, farmers, craftsmen, small proprietors, traders, national capitalists, and intellectuals. Among them, workers, farmers, and intellectuals are regarded as key elements. In fact, a part of this article has already been explained when I discussed the first phrase of Article 1 on the principle of the popular democratic state. Article 3 deals primarily with power or state power of the people. That is the first point. The second lays down the foundations of society and classes of people which comprise workers, farmers, craftsmen, small proprietors, traders, and national capitalists. Since the content of this article has already been clarified, I therefore do not have to repeat it.

"Article 4 says: The people's power is exercised through the system of representative organs and bodies of state power composed of the Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] and local people's councils at all levels. This article is also related to Articles 1 and 3. It stipulates the power and duties of the state. State power comprising the SPA and local people's councils at all levels have two roles. First, they serve as representative organs of the people as they are elected by the people. Second, as the bodies of state power, they have the authority to deliberate major problems in connection with the country's administration. The details of this article will be further elaborated when I discuss chapters 4 to 7."

Under the Article 5 provision, voters have the right to dismiss representatives they have elected to the SPA and local people's councils at all levels. This article spells out how the elections of members of the SPA and people's council should be carried out.

"Article 6 stipulates that the SPA, the local people councils, and other state organizations are established and function in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. In short, Article 6 stipulates the principle for the establishment and functions of state power organizations and state apparatuses, including the SPA and people councils at the provincial, municipal, and district levels; the Council of Ministers; local administrative committees at the provincial, district, and canton levels; ministries and departments under the Council of Ministers; the supreme court, municipal, provincial, district people's courts, and the People's Judiciary Institute; and the provincial and district prosecution offices. These are the state organizations that must be established in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. I would like to further explain the meaning of democratic centralism. Centralism means to be in agreement with the lines, policies, resolution and orders in adherence to the constitution and laws. The second meaning of centralism is cohesion. Democracy means the enhancement of the right to mastery and creativity and recognition of opinions and views of people of all tribes and strata. That the establishment of the organizations must be in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism means: First, the leadership of organizations at all levels must be elected. Second, the minority must yield to the majority and individualism must be placed under collectivism. We are talking about the principle of democratic centralism. Third, higher echelons must consider the opinions of lower echelons and the people when formulating or adopting any policy and plan. They must allow the latter to express their views and take them into consideration beforehand. Once a policy or plan has been adopted, it must be carried out by the lower echelons. Fourth, activities of all organizations—party and state bodies as well as social organization or mass organizations such as the Lao Front for National Construction, the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union, the Federation of the Lao Trade Unions, the Federation of Lao Women Unions, and others must be in agreement with the party's line and policies and act within the limits of the constitution and laws. Every citizen must also behave in accordance with the party's line and within the limits of the constitution and law."

Article 7

BK1706093390 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 5 Jun 90

[Radio lecture on draft constitution given on 5 June by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly, and standing member of the Constitution Drafting Committee—recorded]

[Summary] "Article 7 says: The fundamental content of the popular democratic system is the enhancement of the people's right to mastery. All state organizations and cadres must pay attention to the propagation of policies, regulations, and laws and together with the people organize their implementation to guarantee these legitimate rights and interests. All acts of bureaucratism and harassment that can be detrimental to the people's lives and property are prohibited."

Primarily, Article 7 deals with the enhancement of the people's right to mastery. Many listeners might wonder why the draft constitution must emphasize the people's right to mastery. "There are three major reasons for this. First, the essence of the popular democratic system is the people's right to mastery. This article reflects the great achievement of our people. The great achievement is the right to mastery. In fact, if we talk about democracy, we talk about the people as the genuine masters of the country in terms of politics, economy, education, public health, social welfare, and so forth. The second reason is that the people's right to mastery is the foundation of our state; as I said earlier, our republic is a popular democratic state that belongs to the people, comes from the people, and serves the people's interests. The third reason is that this constitution firmly defends the fundamental rights and interests of the people of all strata and tribes in the entire country."

"Since our state maintains that the enhancement of the people's right to mastery is the fundamental essence of the popular democratic system, every agency, office, and organization of the party and state as well as other mass organizations are obliged to go down to the grass roots to propagate and popularize the party's policies and lines and the state laws and regulations so as to further promote the people's law-abiding awareness, sense of patriotism, and love for the new regime." By so doing, we will be able to foster close relations among the party, state, and people of all strata. At the same time, we must prohibit all acts of bureaucratism and harassment. If we want to fully enhance the people's right to mastery, we must go down to mingle with them and correct all acts against the people's right to mastery.

It is noticeable that since the formation of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the people's right to mastery has been protected and promoted each day. Our people have been enjoying freedoms, for example, in traveling, participating in political activities, earning their living, and engaging in business activities. Meanwhile, our multiethnic people are more politically conscious and "dare to criticize cadres, soldiers, police, and various organizations found violating laws and infringing on the people's right to mastery." I believe that as we are studying the draft constitution, we must help each other correct our weak points and shortcomings to correctly abide by the laws and further enhance the people's right to mastery and improve relations among the party, state, and people. This is the explanation for Article 7.

Article 9

BK1706095590 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 6 Jun 90

[Radio lecture on draft constitution given on 6 June by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly, and standing member of the Constitution Drafting Committee—recorded]

[Summary] "Today, I would like to present contents of Article 9 of the draft constitution. Article 9 reads as follows: The state implements the policy of unity in line with the principle of equality among ethnic tribes. All acts of sowing discord and racial discrimination are prohibited. All ethnic tribes have the right to safeguard and promote their fine customs and cultures. The state impartially implements every measure to upgrade the economy, education, culture, and social welfare of all ethnic tribes on the plains and in mountainous regions."

Article 9 comprises four major points. The first major point is the state's implementation of the policy of maintaining unity among various ethnic tribes in accordance with the principle of equality. This point consists of both policy and measures. The second point is the prohibition of all acts discriminating against ethnic tribes and sowing division among them. The third point is that all ethnic tribes maintain the right to defend and promote their fine traditions and cultures. The fourth point is that the state implements all measures to raise and equalize the economic, educational, and social welfare levels of all ethnic tribes both in the plains and mountainous regions.

The main reasons for the adoption of the first point on the state's implementation of the policy of unity among ethnic tribes are as follows: "First, maintaining the unity among all ethnic tribes has all along been considered a major policy of our party and state." As you know, our Lao nation comprises many ethnic tribes, and it is the party that rallies all the ethnic tribes around the national front—the Lao Itsala [Free] Front and then the Lao Patriotic Front in the past and the Lao Front for National Construction at present. "The issues of unity among ethnic tribes, internal unity, or the implementation of the national concord policy are stipulated or written in the lines of all resolutions issued by the party and state since the beginning of the revolution." Based on this fact, the policy of unity in line with the principle of equality among ethnic tribes is defined in the draft constitution.

"The second reason is that in the actual practice of the present struggle to defend and build the country, as well as in the past cause of the national salvation struggle, the unity among various ethnic tribes, or the unity among people of all strata, tribes, and religions in general, has become a basic factor for the revolution—the factor that determines victory in all stages." By unitedly rallying around the national front under the party's leadership, the ethnic tribes form an overall strength for the nation. It therefore serves as a basic factor determining all victories of the revolution.

"The third reason concerns the patriotic and revolutionary spirit of all our ethnic tribes. In this regard, it cannot be said that the spirit of one tribe is higher that that of another." This we can see through the fact that the people of all tribes have all along taken part in the struggle to gain independence. After the liberation of the country and over the past 15 years, the people of all tribes have also united in struggling to defend the country and build the new system. To maintain this spirit, the party and state deem it necessary to upgrade and develop economic, cultural, educational, public health, and social welfare work in the countryside and mountainous areas so the people of all tribes can enjoy the same standard of living.

"The policy of unity and national concord can be effectively implemented only on the basis of the principle of equality. The principle of equality means that all tribes maintain equal rights and equal obligations toward the country." All tribes maintain the right to self-mastery in the national community.

Article 10

BK1706101190 Vientiane Domestic Service in Lao 0030 GMT 7 Jun 90

[Radio lecture on draft constitution given on 7 June by Chaleun Yiapaoheu, alternate member of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee, standing member of the Supreme People's Assembly, and standing member of the Constitution Drafting Committee—recorded]

[Summary] "Article 10 of the draft constitution says: The state protects all lawful activities of Buddhist monks and novices as well as the followers of other religions. All acts of discrimination against religious groups or classes of people are prohibited.

"This article consists of two parts. You listeners might wonder why the state has to protect the activities of Buddhist monks and novices. The reasons are: 1. It is necessary to recognize the right and freedom of faith of the Lao people of all ethnic tribes. 2. The majority of the Lao people are Buddhists. 3. All lawful activities of Buddhist monks and novices need protection. 4. In the past, the enemies and bad elements disguised themselves as Buddhist monks and novices to mislead our people, carry out subversive activities, create division among the people, and separate the people of different religions from the party and state. This sort of thing happened in our country in the past.

"This article is aimed at defending the Buddhist faith, Buddhist monks and novices, as well as followers of other religions. This is an important issue. Many people might ask why the draft constitution does not mention other religions. There is no need to do that, because this draft constitution guarantees the right and freedom of faith of the people of all ethnic tribes and promotes unity among believers of all religions.

"The second part of this article prohibits all acts of discrimination against religious groups and people. This provision is based on the policy of fostering unity among the believers of all religions and people of all ethnic tribes and strata." The believers of all religions must, therefore, be united and consolidated to jointly carry out the tasks of national defense and socialist construction. We must be vigilant against all schemes of the enemies and bad elements to create division among the people by "using money to bribe or seduce our people to embrace a certain religion and serve their plan to destroy our new regime and the right and freedom of faith of our people. This is the explanation of Article 10."

Philippines

Survey Shows Growing Anti-Bases Sentiment

HK1606085990 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 16 Jun 90 pp 1,8

[Text] The number of Filipinos who want U.S. military bases removed has increased substantially in the past year although many still believe the installations should remain indefinitely, according to the annual public opinion survey conducted by the Ateneo de Manila University.

The survey of 1,200 voting-age Filipinos questioned last March throughout the country found that 29 percent of the respondents wanted the six bases closed within 10 years. A similar survey conducted in February 1989 found that 18 percent wanted the bases removed over the next decade.

Rev. Joaquin Bernas, president of the Jesuit-run university, said the 11 percent increase was significant. Bernas said the survey, which was financed by the Ford Foundation, was conducted before exploratory talks on extending the bases, took place last month. "Considering the rather negative publicity the Americans got during that period (preliminary talks), if we were to survey now, there would be a change," Bernas told reporters.

The United States maintains Clark air base, Subic naval base and four smaller facilities under an agreement which expires in September 1991. U.S. and Filipino officials ended five days of talks on a new agreement on May 18 and are expected to continue negotiations in August. Any agreement must be ratified by two-thirds of the 23-member Senate, where opposition to the bases is strong.

Bernas said 41 percent of the respondents favored an indefinite extension of the bases, virtually no change from the 40 percent who supported the installations in February 1989.

Twenty-three percent were unaware the United States had any bases in the Philippines according to the latest survey and 6 percent had no opinion, Bernas said.

Of those who favored removal in the latest survey, 13 percent wanted the bases to remain until 1991, 6 percent wanted them closed immediately, 8 percent after five years and 2 percent after 10 years, Bernas said. Opposition to the installations was strongest in the Manila area, where 46 percent favored closing them within 10 years, Bernas said.

Bernas said the same survey found more Filipinos were dissatisfied with president Aquino, whose approval rating fell from 64 percent in February 1988 to 48 percent in the latest survey. The survey also said Filipinos are disappointed with Congress, the military and the civilian bureaucracy.

Bernas said 45 percent believed they were worse off economically than a year ago and expected no improvement in the near future. Only 35 percent felt the same as in the February 1989 poll. "Pessimism has taken hold even in the upper middle class," said Bernas. "Sharing is unlikely to happen because they are feeling the pinch."

The survey also showed that 82 percent of the respondents oppose a military takeover but 46 percent felt the nine-day coup attempt last December was necessary to jolt the government out of its lethargy.

The respondents also voted overwhelmingly (negative 1 percent) [as published] against military rule.

In a related issue, 42 percent approved of President Aquino's decision to seek help from the U.S. during the December coup. Some 28 percent disapproved, while 20 percent was undecided. Those who approved said help from U.S. was needed "to avoid greater trouble and casualty" (25 percent), "to save the country from military rebels" (22 percent), and "to stop coup troubles and maintain peace" (19 percent). Those who disapproved said "internal problems should be solved by us" (37 percent), "Cory had no control over the situation" (9 percent), "showed Cory's powerlessness against the rebels" (8 percent), and "showed lack of confidence in our soldiers" (6 percent).

DPRK Offers Official Ties, Nonsupport of NPA

HK1606070790 Hong Kong AFP in English 0611 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Manila, June 16 (AFP)—North Korea is open to diplomatic relations with the Philippines and is willing to cut off ties with local communist insurgents, said an official letter to President Corazon Aquino released here Saturday.

The letter, released by the foreign affairs department, was signed by Kim Tal-Hyon, North Korea's vice prime minister and minister for foreign trade.

In the letter, released after a Philippine congressional delegation visited Pyongyang from June 7 to 12, Mr. Kim said his government was reconfirming "our sincere intention to commence and promote our bilateral relations in all fields, trade, economic and diplomatic." He added that he was "authorized by (the Pyongyang government) to agree with the proposal conveyed by the delegation from the Philippines for Korea not to have any contact with or support for New People's Army (NPA)," the local communist guerrilla movement.

The two congressmen who led the Philippine delegation, Jose De Venecia and Miguel Romero, said in a separate letter to Mrs. Aquino that their visit was successful.

During their visit, they met for over an hour with North Korean leader Kim Il-song, during which he expressed his support for the Aquino government and said his government had no contact with and would not support local communist insurgents or interfere in internal Philippine affairs. Philippine military officials have charged that North Korea is providing training and support to local guerrillas and Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus has said Pyongyang should guarantee there would be no more such support before the two countries could normalize ties.

The two congressmen also said Pyongyang expressed the hope that a seven million dollar countertrade program exchanging Philippine coconut oil for North Korean cement would be finalized.

They denied press reports they had signed a barter agreement with Pyongyang although they declared their support for such countertrade agreements.

They said that during their meeting, Kim Il-song appeared "physically robust, mentally alert and articulate."

The Philippines and Brunei are the only two nations in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that do not have ties with North Korea. The other nations in ASEAN are Indonesia, Malaysai, Singapore and Thailand.

'Official Talks' Opened

HK1806061890 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 18 Jun 90 p 2

[By reporters Mariquit Almario and Dionision Tubianosa]

[Text] The Philippines and North Korea have opened official talks aimed at establishing diplomatic ties before the end of the year, Representative Jose de Venecia (LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], Pangasinan) said yesterday.

De Venecia, chairman of the committee on foreign affairs of the House of Representatives, headed a congressional delegation to communist North Korea from June 7-12.

De Venecia said that during his talks with North Korea's deputy foreign minister, the official "confirmed" that talks were now under way in Kuala Lumpur between Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Rodolfo Severino and his North Korean counterpart to "accelerate" the opening of diplomatic ties between the two countries.

Based on his meetings with North Korean officials, including Vice Premier Minister Dr. Kim Tal-Hyon, De Venecia expressed confidence that economic and diplomatic ties can start before the end of the year. "We should have immediate economic ties with North Korea followed by diplomatic relations, and this should be done expeditiously. But the final decision lies with

President Aquino and Foreign Affairs Secretary (Raul) Manglapus," De Venecia said.

Earlier, Manglapus admitted that the government is "exploring the question of diplomatic relations" with North Korea. He confirmed the talks in Kuala Lumpur between the two ambassadors have been going on for several months. He said the two were tasked to pave the way for an agreement.

Manglapus stressed that before the Philippines can open diplomatic ties with North Korea, national security "has to be considered by our country."

De Venecia, however, said that with Hyon's assurance that North Korea will not support the local communist movement and that the ruling Korean Workers Party (KWP) will not interfere in the country's internal affairs, the Aquino administration has no reason to fear. "On national security, the more we should have diplomatic relations (with North Korea) because it supports the Aquino government and the North Korean government does not and will not maintain relations with the NPA (New People's Army) and the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP)," he said.

De Venecia also said that although his visit to North Korea was not authorized by the executive department, it had the blessings of Speaker Ramon Mitra Jr. He added that since the country has a tri-partite system of government, the House, as one of the chambers of Congress, may act independently and may not need authorization from either Executive or the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA]. He added that he plans to meet with Manglapus, National Security Adviser Rafael Ileto and Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos anytime this week to brief them on his visit to North Korea.

He also stressed the need for the government to open formal trade relations with Poland, Czechoslovakia, and North Korea to hasten the country's economic recovery. De Venecia said North Korea alone has vast market potentials for the country's products.

Before his North Korean trip, De Venecia also led a move in the House in asking the government through a resolution to formalize trade ties with Taiwan. He said the changing global political situation requires a restudy of the countries policy on Taiwan and socialist countries.

Among the six-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, only the Philippines and Brunei have no diplomatic relations with North Korea.

North Korea has assured the Philippines it will not support rebels fighting the government of President Aquino and hopes for better relations between the two countries. The assurances were contained in a letter from North Korean Vice Prime Minister Kim Tal-Hyon to Mrs Aquino brought to Manila by De Venecia's group. Copies of the letter were distributed Saturday by the DFA.

Kim said he was authorized to agree to a proposal by the Filipino legislators to assure Manila that his government will not support the outlawed Communist Party of the Philippines, which has been waging a 21-year guerilla war against the government. De Venecia, leader of the five-member delegation, said Kim promised his government will not to provide training and weapons for local communists "now and in the future."

The rebels obtain many of their weapons in arms seizures or by buying them from dealers or government soldiers. The military believes that some weapons occasionally come from communist states in the region, but there is no evidence to link North Korea with the Philippine insurgency.

Aquino Says Contacts 'Unofficial'

HK1806100490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0957 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Manila, June 18 (AFP)—President Corazon Aquino said Monday that contacts between Manila and Pyongyang remain unofficial, but Manila was studying the possibility of opening diplomatic relations with North Korea.

The Philippine Foreign Affairs Department (DFA) on Saturday issued a statement, signed by Kim Tal-Hyon, North Korea's foreign trade minister and deputy prime minister, saying Pyongyang was ready to open bilateral diplomatic ties.,

The letter, addressed to Mrs. Aquino and released after a Philippine congressional delegation visited North Korea from June 7 to 12, also said Pyongyang was willing to cut off ties with communist insurgents.

"The contacts we have had with North Korea so far have been unofficial. The DFA continues to study the matter of possible formal relations as a very important question," Mrs. Aquino said in a statement.

Mr. Kim also said in the letter that his government was reconfirming "our sincere intention to commence and promote our bilateral relations in all fields, trade, economic and diplomatic, etc."

He added that he was "authorized by (Pyongyang) to agree with the proposal conveyed by the delegation from the Philippines for Korea not to have any contact with or support for New People's Army (NPA)" referring to the local communist guerrilla movement.

The two congressmen who led the delegation, Jose De Venecia and Miguel Romero, said in a separate letter to Mrs. Aquino, that their visit was "successful." [passage omitted]

Iraq, Pakistan Affirm Support on MNLF Issue

HK1406112390 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1000 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus says Iraq is not likely to support the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front] bid for membership in the Organization of Islamic Countries or OIC [ICO]. The information was relayed to Manglapus by Congress [as heard] Michael Mastura, head of the Philippine delegation to the OIC. Ana Soriano reports:

[Begin recording] Missions had already been formed to convey to the Middle East countries the Philippine position on the Moro National Liberation Front's bid for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference. Mastura heads the first mission and Senator Santanina Rasul heads the other.

Based on Mastura's report, Manglapus said the assurance was issued by Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf. Manglapus stated that Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi also supports the Philippines' opposition to the MNLF OIC membership bid. According to Manglapus, Sa'dun thinks that the MNLF bid for OIC membership would set a very bad precedent for other seccessionist Muslim organization. [end recording]

Meanwhile, Pakistan ambassador to the Philippines, Riffat Hayat Khan dahj today said the Organization of Islamic Conference has never considered the membership application of the outlawed Moro National Liberation Front. Riffat said the MNLF is not qualified to join the OIC since the Muslim rebel group has failed to meet the basic requirements, and these are territory, people, and government. The Pakistani ambassador is in Mindanao to see the developments taking place there in Muslim areas and to meet with local leaders. He said that Pakistan stands firm in its decision to cooperate with the Philippine Government.

Japan Sets Terms for Possible Loan Package

HK1406061590 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 14 Jun 90 p 2

[Text] The Japanese Government has set the terms for the possibility of its cofinancing together with the Asian Development Bank [ADB] the $200-million financial sector program loan for the development of the capital markets.

If negotiations prosper, the program loan may be included in the 17th Yen Credit Package.

The conditions set by Tokyo are similar to those the ADB proposed on implementation of the much-needed policy reforms. These were, in turn, conveyed to the Securities and Exchange Commission [SEC] through the Department of Finance. Among the recommendations are the liberalization of regulations on activities of foreign financial institutions; facilitation of foreign investments; widening of the ownership base of the stock market; introduction of the long-term bond market; and unification of the two stock exchanges.

Tokyo, through the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF), has also asked the SEC for reforms on the manner of regulating Japanese companies owning seats in either of the two exchanges.

These reforms, the OECF stressed, are needed to keep the domestic capital market on an even keel with other markets worldwide. A comparison was made with all the other Asian markets and the OECF noted that the Philippines has seriously lagged behind despite the country having started early in the field.

SEC chairman Rosario Lopez said some of the reforms sought are actually being put in place.

Farmers Organizations Split on Aquino's Movement

HK1606090590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 16 Jun 90 p 10

[By correspondent Redempto Anda]

[Text] Farmers' organizations, one of the major power blocks envisioned to provide the bulk of Mrs Aquino's newly-formed Kabisig [Partnership], are split on whether nor not to join the political movement.

Sanduguan [Alliance], which claims a membership of 10,000 farmers nationwide and is one of the three major groups in the Peasant's Forum coalition, announced yesterday its intention to join Aquino's group. But the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas [Philippine peasant movement] (KMP), another major farmers' group, said they would not join. The KMP even urged other organizations to turn down any invitation from Malacanang.

In a letter to Mrs Aquino, Sanduguan chairman Benjamin Cruz said they wanted to join the movement because "its vision jibes with the interests and aspirations of the peasantry for economic and social empowerment." In contrast, a KMP statement branded Kabisig's founding "an act of desperation" and a "divide and rule" tactic. "It can no longer be denied that the Cory government is but a progeny of past administrations where the welfare of the poor and the oppressed usually takes the back seat once the interest of those in power is at stake," KMP chairman Rafael Mariano said.

Sanduguan's decision apparently caught other members of the Peasants' Forum by surprise. Sources said the Congress for People's Agrarian Reform (CPAR), which includes the KMP, will meet to decide whether or not to join Kabisig. But a peasant leader told reporters "CPAR is not expected to join the movement."

Sanduguan vice chairman Vic Tagle said Kamasaka [expansion unknown], their group's economic arm, intends to participate in the Kabisig movement's poverty alleviation programs. The group's decision to join Kabisig, however, is expected to fuel a rift among members of the Peasant's Forum, which also includes the Federation of Free Farmers (FFF).

Earlier, the Peasant's Forum vowed not to cooperate with the government after a series of controversies snagged the implementation of the agrarian reform program.

The Forum had performed a "symbolic closure" of the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) building in Quezon City to protest government's resolution of the NDC [National Development Corporation]-Marubeniland conversion case in Cavite.

Editorial Views Kabisig as 'Call for Action'

HK1306033290 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Jun 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Tapping Initiatives of the Grassroots"]

[Text] Kabisig [Partnership], the political movement that President Aquino launched at the Independence Day rites at the Luneta yesterday has already accomplished one thing: It has brought turmoil to the political party system, as Filipinos have always known it.

At a time when politicians are talking about nothing but the 1992 elections, the President has launched a movement that will tackle development and progress for the common good. For its mass base, Kabisig will be relying on the hundreds of cooperatives organized nationwide, non-governmental organizations as well as groups and individuals who, the President said, "know how to use their freedom" to improve their own lives and those of their neighbors.

While the politicians in the LDP [Struggle of Philippine Democrats], the LP [Liberal Party] and PDP-Laban [Pilipino Democratic Party-Nation's Strength]—the members of her coalition—are free to join Kabisig, the President has stressed that they must forget their own agenda and put service to country above all by supporting her "pro-poor" measures.

Two days before it could even be formally launched, Kabisig already induced a number of derogatory remarks from elected officials and big party bosses who see it only as a threat to their own clout and personal ambitions. These remarks were made even before the President defined her movement.

Some have said that President is vindictive after all, for she has gotten back at those who oppose her in Congress in the way that she knows will hurt them the most—by declaring her independence from them and, in effect, pulling the rug from under their feet.

If only because it has made the traditional politicians feel abandoned and insecure, this movement must be encouraged.

For if there is anything that the past four years have made clear, it is that our people are sick and tired of traditional politics and the bankruptcy of those who practice it. Those who want to move on and get this country going only remember how often politicians have managed to block or waterdown essential measures meant to improve the lives of the majority.

Through the movement, the President seeks to bypass traditional politicians as power brokers and to establish a direct link between the government and the people.

Although it is still imperfect, the President's new movement could provide the push that could wrench Philippine politics out of the patronage-based system that has ruled our people for nearly half a century.

Her opponents ridicule her for moving so late in the day, when she is almost at the end of her term and has been rendered virtually ineffective—a lameduck. Some say that the President has already lost the people and their organizations because of the indifferent performance of the her government. There are those who say that the new movement is ill-advised because it will only worsen the tensions between Malacanang and the legislature.

Certainly, the President's move does comes a bit late. She may have difficulty persuading the people, especially the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), to join initiatives based on self-help. The mass organizations will be watching further moves by the President. It is not enough that during the past two weeks, the Cabinet pledged to promote a "preferential option for the poor." And last week, Malacanang unveiled a tax reform package intended to shift the tax burden from the poor to the rich.

The movement is a call for action rather than for more rhetoric about elections. It is meant to tap the initiatives of the grass roots and link them with programs being promoted by the national and local governments.

Column Belittles Aquino's New Movement

HK1306094590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 13 Jun 90 pp 4, 5

["Finer Points" column by Fermin D. Adriano: "A typical 'trapo' [cleaning rag] response?"]

[Text] The launching of a movement by President Aquino purportedly to act as a pressure group for the speedier implementation of reform measures should not be seen as a belated effort by a government genuinely concerned about the perception of the popular sector. It is nothing but a typical response of a traditional politician (trapo) beleaguered by threats from its enemies.

It should be remembered that this latest initiative comes amidst rumors of another coup to be staged by rebel forces and the successive setbacks suffered by the Executive in the hands of the Supreme Court and the legislature. these defeats, together with the perceived weakness of the presidency, have enhanced the unflattering image of the administration as a "lameduck" government.

The idea of launching the movement was first brought out right after the failed December coup and before the fourth anniversary celebration of the Edsa [Epifanio de los Santos Avenue] revolution last February.

During that time, key Aquino officials thought of it as a way to woo back the support of the cause-oriented groups, who were, after all, the backbone of the Edsa revolution. It was also seen as a way of countering the growing influence of the trapos in the political system. They thought that if Mrs. Aquino finally decided not to run in 1992, she must at least bequeath a new form of politics (which they referred to then as "new politics") to her people as her lasting legacy to the nation.

The proponents of the movement thought of launching it last February but for lack of time, the idea failed to materialize. Besides, the "realists" in the group cautioned that launching such a movement would entail drastic changes in the thrusts of the government to really put substance to the initiative. They felt then that the administration was not prepared to undertake such measures.

Political scientists believe that there are three indispensable elements for a successful mass-based movement. First, the movement should have a vision (some call it "ideology") that outlines and promises a better life for its members. Second, it must have a person or persons that symbolize the very ideals of the movement. Conversely, the enemies of the movement should be represented by individuals who symbolize the very opposite of what the movement stands for. Finally, it should have the organization and the logistical support needed to mobilize its members to attain its goals.

The first factor is obviously not present in the recently founded movement. the "propoor" theme of government is such an amorphous thrust that any political aggrupation [as published], regardless of its ideological leaning, can always claim that its formation was propelled solely by its desire to serve the poor.

The administration fails to fulfill the second factor because of the blatant discrepancy between its "propor" thrust and the people on top of policy-making in the country. Individuals like Trade and Industry Secretary Jose Concepcion and Presidential Assistant Vicente Jayme do not symbolize the government's agenda of a "preferential option for the poor." People have not forgotten their unwavering "preferential option for the rich" as they have shown in the NDC-[National Development Corporation] Marubeni and the LPC [expansion unknown] cases.

Finally, the government fails to satisfy the final factor in view of its isolation from the cause-oriented groups as a consequence of its "concentrationist" economic policies and its Right-wing political stance. It will therefore not be surprising if the "new politics" movement will end up with trapos dominating its ranks.

Already, Sen. Heherson Alvarez had signified his intention to join the movement. Thus, it would not be far-fetched that House Speaker Ramon Mitra and Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, Mrs Aquino's brother, will follow suit.

More than a decade ago, Marcos had a similar vision of ushering the era of new politics in the country when he funded the "New Society Movement" during his dictatorial years. But slowly, the movement was transformed into anything but "new" when the old oligarchy and the crony capitalists began to occupy its leadership posts. Many were not surprised at this development because, bereft of a systematic vision (ideology), the "New Society Movement" could not possibly transcend its parochialism. Undoubtedly, a similar fate awaits this administration's "new politics" movement in view of the bankruptcy of its ideology and of the people who man it.

Analysis Views Kabisig as 'Counter-Coup Weapon'

HK1406060590 Manila THE MANILA CHRONICLE in English 14 Jun 90 pp 1, 8

["Analysis" column by Amando Doronila: "Kabisig (Partnership) is a counter-coup weapon"]

[Text] Without probably realizing it, President Aquino exploded a bomb that could dislocate the system of brokerage of power in Philippine politics when she launched on Independence Day a political movement called "Kabisig."

The President confounded critics when she called the movement "Kabisig," rather than "Katipunan" as hinted earlier, but the name is of secondary importance. What is more important to realize is that the President has launched a political initiative that is primarily designed to mobilize the people behind a beleaguered government but that has implications for the party system beyond its immediate objective.

The movement has a double-fronted thrust—to broaden the popular base of the government by forming a coalition with the grass-roots and to strengthen its leverage to wrench concessions from Congress. The fact that initially, members of Congress have reacted to the movement with resentment and suspicion indicates that they feel their power is threatened by it. They have a reason to feel insecure because the movement has the potential to undermine their power base and to bypass their role as patronage brokers between the national government and their local constituencies. They are seeing the writing on the wall.

In seeking to mobilize the grassroots behind government programs designed to accelerate and expand the delivery of essential services to the people, both in the rural areas and urban centers, the government aims to reconstruct people power and use it to blunt coup attempts. In this sense, "Kabisig" is a counter-coup weapon.

The writing on the wall that is causing anxiety among members of Congress suggests that they are peripheral to the new coalition. "Kabisig" is built on an alliance among the presidency, grass-roots organizations such as cooperatives and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and provincial governors and local mayors.

This alliance can undermine the role of members of Congress as powerbrokers mediating between the center and the rural electorate and thereby render them redundant. The NGOs are vital to this new alliance because (1) they have extensive and direct access to the grassroots; (2) they serve as the conduits through which foreign and private sector funds for rural amelioration pass; (3) and their relatively efficient channels of distribution of resources contrast with the clogged pipelines of the public bureaucracy. In short, the NGOs are being harnessed and linked with local governments in the movement to deliver services to the countryside. This would replace the members of Congress as dispenser of patronage.

The name of the game is delivery of services and the movement does not envisage a central role for Congress. Its members and the parties to which they belong are only being invited to join the movement at the President's own terms.

Building grass-roots support is a means by which the President could bring pressure on Congress to pass urgent and priority measures which are now being blocked by the legislators.

This is not the first time that the presidency is seeking to undercut or bypass the power brokerage role of Congress. Indeed, "Kabisig" is merely a variant of President Magsaysay's PACD (Presidential Assistant for Community Development) and President Marcos's Infrastructure Development Program which supplanted the role of Congress in the distribution of public works benefits to the countryside, even though the infrastructure program was partly responsible for launching the nation into an explosion of foreign borrowing. International loans essentially financed Marcos's design to scuttle the independence and power base of congress.

Magsaysay's immense popularity did not save him from obstructionism in Congress. The PACD was the mechanism he used to bypass Congress in linking his government to the grassroots. Magsaysay also was annoyed by the independent position taken by the Senate in foreign policy, and his move to mobilize the grassroots was in part aimed at undercutting Congress.

It is important to note that the shock troops of "Kabisig" are the governors and mayors and some members of the Cabinet. The President cited in her Independence Day speech the key roles of governors and some Cabinet members as architects of the movement. They include Governors Bren Guiao of Pampanga, Roberto Pagdanganan of Bulacan, Daniel Lacson of Negros Occidental and Douglas Cagas of Davao del Sur, as well as Secretaries Alfredo Bengzon (Health), Jesus Estanislao (Finance) and Oscar Orbos (Transport).

These men are all dynamic and action-oriented officials. By giving them a leading role in the movement, the President, in effect, has created a political vehicle which could serve as the platform for presidential candidacies of people who do not have bases in the existing political parties.

The movement also opens a new area of recruitment for candidates to national office. In this sense, the movement is an attack on traditional patterns of political recruitment based in Congress.

It is too early to determine whether the President will use the movement as a vehicle for reelection or whether the movement will evolve into a party. She emphatically said in her Independence Day speech that "Kabisig" is not her political party. But "Kabisig" contains the potential to be transformed into a party and can easily be used as a political vehicle by its leading members, especially if the movement successfully makes a linkage with the NGOs and the grassroots.

In the recent past, former President Marcos launched a movement called the New Society Movement to give political expression to the reconstruction of politics following the declaration of martial law. The movement evolved into the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan, a political party which was the pillar of his variant of a one-party state.

There is no indication tha "Kabisig" will develop into something like the KBL. Their political contexts and aims are different "Kabisig" is envisaged to function outside the legislature in which then are already several parties. It does not aim at creating a one-party state. But if it succeeds in forging an alliance with the grassroots and the governors, this would mean the overhaul of the party system. The members of Congress have sensed the potential of the movement in destabilizing the party system and it reducing their importance and that is why they are very restless.

Ramos Views 'Threat' From 'Left and Right'

HK0706045790 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 7 Jun 90 p 13

[By Fe B. Zamora]

[Text] The protracted countryside war waged by the communists has resulted in the killing of at least 16,000 government troops since 1969, Defense Secretary Fidel V. Ramos said Tuesday night. Ramos said the military averaged two casualties per day in the campaign against communist insurgents, in a speech on the state of national security before the combined Rotary Clubs of Quezon City.

He said "Threatening noises" continue to be made against the government by the Communist Party of the

Philippines [CPP], and its armed wing, the New People's Army [NPA], as well as the ultrarightist elements of the Reform the AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Movement [RAM], Soldiers of the Filipino People [SFP] and the Young Officers' Union [YOU].

"Our situation seems all the more difficult because the enemies of the Republic threaten it from both Left and Right," be said. He said neither group can "win by hitting against the Armed Forces." But he said both groups could "trigger off a crisis of self-confidence that might induce ordinary Filipinos to believe there is no hope for our country other than its submission to a communist dictatorship."

He said the threat from the Left comes primarily from the CPP/NPA and its united front organization, the National Democratic Front, which had been waging an armed struggle for the past 20 years.

He played down the threat posed by ultrarightist elements in the military who have launched over the past four years, six failed coup attempts.

"The communist guerillas have no nearby neutral territory to offer them sanctuary. Their outside sources of arms needed for any decisive action has dried up. They cannot even mass their forces, because that would make them vulnerable to AFP served weapons and combat formations," said Ramos.

"As for the military rebels, even in December—their go-forbroke attempt—they never numbered more than 2 percent of the entire strength of the AFP," he added.

He said both group have decided to bring the war to Manila, which is the center of political and economic power.

He said the police have difficulty in tracking down communist gunmen because these "political fanatics have no criminal records."

He said ultrarightist elements in the military have adopted the ways of the communist rebels "as shown by their sowing of disinformation to create an atmosphere of apprehension and uncertainty." "Unable to commit to military action, the RAM/SFP/YOU is resorting to intrigue, innuendo, disinformation, rumor—to frighten the civilian population, divide the government leadership and project an image of purposefulness, organization and strength that in reality it no longer has," he said.

He said the RAM/SFP/YOU has "discovered xerox and facsimile machines and the telephone to be the most effective weapons in an atmosphere of apprehension and uncertainty."

Efforts for Return of Marcos Children Underway

HK1406115590 Quezon City Sports Radio 738 in English 1000 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] The Sandiganbayan [antigraft court] ordered the solicitor general's office to find out from the Department of Foreign Affairs if the children of the late President Marcos can return to the Philippines. For the rest of that story, here is correspondent Mars Encarnacion:

[Begin recording] In an open court order, Justice Conrado Molina ordered Assistant Solicitor General Nestor Villacillo to coordinate with the Department of Foreign Affairs in order to provide travel documents to the Marcos children because that is an executive prerogative. Earlier, the court declared in default the Marcoses in their civil cases at the Sandiganbayan filed by the Presidential Commission on Good Government. The Marcos children are considered by the government as security risks. [end recording]

Manglapus on Children's Return

HK1406115990 Quezon City GMA 7 Radio-Television Arts Network in Tagalog 0930 GMT 14 Jun 90

[From "GMA News" program]

[Text] Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul Manglapus said his department has not invalidated a directive canceling passports belonging to members of businessman Cojuangco's family. According to Manglapus, the Manila Regional Trial Court's decision invalidating the Foreign Affairs directive is not final and executory, adding that he will defer action on an order issued by the antigraft court to government lawyers to study the possible return of the late President Marcos' children to the country to face ill-gotten-wealth cases against them:

[Begin unidentified person recording] *We have to yield a little bit and require the solicitor general to talk to the Department of Foreign Affairs of the possibility of sending the children here in the Philippines. But in the event that is not possible, we directed the solicitor general to inform Attorney Recto of the negative response by the department so Attorney Recto can ask the children to appoint a person in the Philippines to act as their representative.* [end recording]

Journalist Names Ramos in Kidnapping Complaint

HK1406093990 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0700 GMT 14 Jun 90

[By Vic Pambuan]

[Excerpts] Kidnapped journalist Vilma Manzo has filed a formal complaint at the Human Rights Commission against Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, several Philippine Air Force members, and other John Does in relation to her having been kidnapped in Makati, Metro Manila recently.

In a statement, Miss Manzo said despite her struggle, she was forced inside a car, tied, blindfolded, and then brought to a secret place in Villamor Air Base by her abductors. In her seven-page sworn statement, she said she was abducted by the aforementioned persons because she allegedly knew a lot about the military operations against the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army. According to her, she was maltreated and abused while in detention at a place in Villamor Air Base. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Miss Manzo revealed the name of one of her abductors, who according to her were all members of the Philippine Air Force:

[Begin Manzo recording] I was abducted by members of the Philippine Air Force headed by Captain Nonoy Abad, at about 1345 [0415 GMT] at Bautista Street, Palanan, Makati, Metro Manila. They brought me to a safehouse in Villamor Air Base, Pasay. [passage omitted] [end recording]

De Villa Forms Investigation Team

HK1506080190 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] AFP [Armed Forces of the Philippines] Chief of Staff General Renato de Villa today formed a special investigation team to look into the allegations of a female reporter about an order of battle against newsmen. Meanwhile, an official from the Department of National Defense [DND] questioned the existence of such an order.

AFP Spokesman Colonel Juanito Rimando reported that De Villa has formed a special investigation team composed of representatives from the AFP inspector-general's office, judge-advocate general's section, and the office of the AFP deputy chief of staff for civil military operations, or J-7, to look into the incident from all aspects. De Villa gave the special team until next week to submit its findings.

On the other hand, a DND spokesman, Ed Pangilinan, claimed that it was impossible for the military to prepare such a hit list and then show it to a newsman. The reporter, Vilma Manzo, who was allegedly abducted by some Air Force soldiers in Makati last 5 June, has filed charges of forcible abduction and illegal detention against Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos, some Air Force officials, and several John Does before the Commission on Human Rights yesterday.

According to Manzo, her abduction and detention stemmed from an order of battled allegedly signed by Ramos and which contained the names of seven other newsmen, including former National Press Club Antonio Nierra, Julius Fortuna, Recah Trinidad, Al Mendoza, Nona Ocampo, Deejay Lazaro, and Elmer Mercado.

Meanwhile, Colonel Rimando also denied that the seven newsmen were on the military's watch list or order of battle.

Ramos Clarifies 'Order of Battle'

HK1606041190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0300 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Defense Secretary Fidel Ramos confirmed that there are 246 wanted communists operating in Metro Manila. He also said that reports have indicated that Vilma Manzo, who claimed to be a reporter, was number 71 on the wanted list. However, he affirmed that Manzo was the only member of the media to appear in the list.

Meanwhile, Ramos also stressed that an existing order of battle was not exclusively targetted against members of the media who support the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army [NPA]. According to Ramos, the list is meant to be used against CPP-NPA members operating in the national capital region. He asserted that the list was not an arrest order against newsmen.

The order of battle is covered by Department Order 012, which Ramos signed on 25 January.

Air Force Tests New Italian Jet Trainers

HK1106041790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 11 Jun 90 p 8

[By Wilma N. Yamzon]

[Text] The Philippine Air Force (PAF) flight-tested last week four of its eight newly acquired modern jet trainers in Mindanao.

The "probing flight" tested the air capability and effectiveness of the S-211 Italian-made aircraft, Lt. Col. [Lieutenant Colonel] Avelino L. Abiol, PAF spokesman said.

Abiol said that the jets will be used to enhance pilot training and boost other PAF advance programs. He said the six other S-211 craft will be equipped with bombs and guns for close air and surface support missions to intensify patrol operations, particularly in the South.

The test flights started at Basa Air Base in Floridablanca, Pampanga and proceeded to Mactan Air Base in Cebu, Davao, and Zamboanga City. Maj. Gen. [Major General] Gerardo C. Protacio, PAF chief, and other officials of the Air Force flew to Zamboanga and saw for themselves the "probing flights" backed by a long-range patrol Fokker aircraft.

Protacio cited the need for the PAF to upgrade its training programs and equipment to catch up with air capability of other air forces in Southeast Asia. He said the modern jet trainers will replace the aging T-33 craft, an old piston trainer-type aicraft acquired eight years ago.

Abiol said the S-211 passed rigid evaluation by the PAF and was found to have the lowest operational cost.

The acquisition of the S-211 for the PAF Flying School also upgrades the preparatory skills of pilots and enhances flying safety.

The negotiations for the acquisition of the jets were made through a government interagency body composed of the Department of National Defense, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Department of Finance, Budget and Management, Trade and Industry, Central Bank, Philippine Aerospace Development Corp., Philippine International Trading Corp., and Department of Budget. The S211 costs $368,555 each and this will be paid through barter of local products with Italy.

Rebels in Mindanao Agree To Declare New State

HK1806060890 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 18 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Official representatives of major rebel forces in Mindanao have agreed to set up a unified command, pursue a common program against the Aquino government and set up a free and independent state of Mindanao, usually reliable sources told NEWSDAY yesterday.

According to these sources, representatives of Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabayan [RAM—Revolutionary Alliance of the Masses]-Soldiers of the People of Mindanao, Armed Forces of the Federal Republic of Mindanao, Mindanao Citizens Army under Mindanao Independence Movement, Movement for a Free Mindanao, Moro National Liberation Front [MNLF], Bangsa Moro [Moro Homeland] Armed Forces, Moro Islamic Liberation Front, MNLF reformist group, and Mindanao tribal forces met last April 28 and agreed, among other things, to set up "a free and independent state of Mindanao."

The parties agreed to set up a seven-man military commission to plan and direct the unified and coordinated military effort in support of the general plan to establish an independent republic, the sources said.

Under this commission will be three military commands, the first to be composed of RAM-Soldiers of the People of Mindanao, the second to be composed of Bangsa Moro Forces, and the third to be composed of tribal forces, the sources added.

What is planned to be established is "a free and independent state, not merely an autonomous region of the Philippines under a unitary form of government or a state of the Philippines under a federated republic," the sources said. The new state will be federal in structure, with a parliamentary form of government, and will be composed of Camiguin, Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Palawan and all adjacent islands, the sources said. Until the first elections are held under a Mindanao constitution duly ratified by the people, all incumbent senators, congressmen and governors who support the new republic shall automatically become part of the provisional government, the sources said.

Meanwhile, despite official statements downgrading the chances of the MNLF bid for regular membership at the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] which meets in Cairo at the end of the Muslim "haj" (pilgrimage) in Mecca next month, sources said never before have the MNLF's chances been better. This is because of the "utter disappointment of the Islamic countries with the policies of the Aquino administration in Mindanao, and the active role that some OIC members have decided to play in the MNLF membership bid," they said.

Recently, the President of Senegal visited Manila and agreed to help the Philippine government present its case to the other OIC members. Iraq was also reported to have said it will not support the MNLF bid.

But MNLF sources said a number of OIC members have become "more convinced than ever of the MNLF cause."

Confusion 'Prevails' in CPP's European Network

HK1506080390 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0700 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Confusion prevails in the European network of the Communist Party of the Philippines [CPP] following the recent resignation of one of its top leaders on orders of a Manila-based leader and the imminent expulsion of CPP chairman Jose Maria Sison from the Netherlands.

According to reports from government agents, Sixto Carlos, head of the International Liaison and International Alliances Department [ILIAD] of the CPP, resigned last year in connection with the dollar counterfeiting incident which was exposed in Switzerland.

Meanwhile, former priest Luis Jalandoni, head of the National Democratic Front's international department, has allegedly sent feelers to local insurgents regarding his plan to return to the Philippines. The same reports also said that the Dutch Government is to withdraw its approval of asylum for Jose Maria Sison. The CPP chairman is reportedly negotiating with the North Korean Government to see if he can stay in that country.

Reports indicated that Carlos resigned as head of the ILIAD because of his failure in handling the growing illegal activities of the CPP in Europe. He has divorced his wife Christine Ebro and has married a Dutch citizen who would help him secure residency in Utrecht, European headquarters of the CPP. Ebro was the wife of Carlos within the party and made a quiet visit to the Philippines this year. She had earlier received a lecture grant in Europe.

Reports also confirmed earlier military pronouncements that younger cadres are questioning the leadership of Sison, whom they had described as an arrogant womanizer. Sison is presently the target of criticisms from the CPP Politburo and from younger officials regarding his handling of funds and his continued domination of the party despite being away from the Philippines.

NPA Thanks 'Patriotic Elements' for Information

BK1606102490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1009 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Manila, June 16 (AFP)—The communist leadership thanked "patriotic elements" in the military for providing information which led to the killing of an air force colonel last Monday, a rebel statement said here Saturday [16 June].

The statement, bearing the logo of the communist New People's Army (NPA) and sent to news agencies Saturday, also said the communists had only been trying to capture Colonel [Col.] Saturnino Dumlao in a daylight attack in this city. The rebel statement said Col. Dumlao resisted, so "the arresting unit had no choice but to fire." Military spokesmen earlier said Col. Dumlao was shot dead in an ambush while driving his car and made no mention of any "arrest" attempt.

Col. Dumlao was assigned to military intelligence and had been credited with the capture of key communist insurgent leaders.

"We send our sincere condolences to the family of Col. Dumlao. We also thank patriotic elements within the (military) for providing us information vital to this operation," the NPA said.

It also warned other military personnel and policemen to "immediately surrender when confronted by arresting units of the NPA," adding that such operations were well-planned so "it is futile to resist."

The statement was apparently referring to military renegades involved in the coup attempt last December that claimed 119 lives and injured more than 500 people. [passage omitted on background information]

NPA Spokesman Sets Conditions for Surrender

HK1306045890 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 13 Jun 90 p 6

[By Romulo Ponte]

[Text] Lucena City—Gregorio Rosal, spokesman of the New People's Army's [NPA] Melito Glor command, said he is willing to return to the fold of the law if government agrees to conditions he set.

At the same time, Rosal said the celebration of Independence Day yesterday was "meaningless."

In an, interview in Quezon Sunday, Rosal, also known as Ka [Comrade] Roger, said he is willing to accept the invitation recently of Quezon Gov. Eduardo Rodriguez to lay down arms and work in a cooperative farm like what former rebel commander Bernabe Buscayno or Ka Dante did in Tarlac. Rosal, however, said the government must first implement genuine agrarian reform, pull out the military force in Quezon and seriously pursue projects that would uplift the economic condition of the poor. If the conditions are met, Rosal said, "Baka sakaling pagaralan ko ang sinasabi ni governor Rodriguez na gawin ko ang tulad ng ginawa ni Dante sa Tarlac." [I might consider Governor Rodriguez' proposal that I do what Dante did in Tarlac]

The NPA spokes man also said yesterday's celebration of Independence Day was a contradiction, because "our country is subservient to foreign dictations and our indebtedness to foreigners are more pronounced."

Returnee Reveals 'Massive' NPA Tax Collection

HK1406111190 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 0900 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] A Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army [CPP-NPA] leader who returned to the fold of law revealed massive tax collection by the underground movement in various Luzon provinces. Ruben Guevarra, member of the CPP-NPA's military commission for Northern Luzon, made the revelation before the defense press corps in Camp Aguinaldo. Guevarra said the tax collection, which amounted to millions of pesos, was carried out in Cagayan, Isabela, and Camarines Norte. [Guevarra passage indistinct]

Anti-Insurgency Drive in Quezon Intensified

HK1406051790 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 14 Jun 90 p 8

[By Jen Jorvina]

[Text] Calauag Quezon—An Army brigade commander said yesterday that he is fielding "special operation teams" (SOT) and two companies of civilian armed forces geographical units (CAFGU) to some barangays in the Bondoc Peninsula in an attempt to crush the backbone of insurgency in the area.

Col. [Colonel] Clemente P. Mariano, 203rd Infantry Brigade [IB] commander, reported to Brig. Gen. [Brigadier General] Thelmo A. Cunanan, 2nd Infantry Division commander, that Army troopers are going back to the barangays with the mission to dismantle the mass base of the New People's Army (NPA).

The troopers belong to the 31st Infantry Battalion under Lt. [Lieutenant] Col. Mascara T. Domaub based in barangay Gamao, Plaridel, Quezon; the 42nd Infantry Battalion led by Maj. [Major] Felix Cabreros and stationed in Catanauan, Quezon; and the 49th Infantry Battalion headed by Maj. Fernando Orbase with headquarters in barangay Talimpak, Guinayangan town.

He said that Army troopers of the 31st IB led by Lt. Romeo Bermudez will conduct live in seminars in barangays Amontay, Poctol, Bilicao, Vega, and Gangahin in Pitogo, Quezon on June 15-16.

Mariano said that the 49th IB has already fielded a SOT led by Lt. Jose del Castillo in barangays Mapulot, Bamban, Mansilay, Payapa, San Jose, and Sispalan in Tagkawayan town. Lt. Freddie Tutaan led another SOT in barangays Pangpangin, Tanag Ibaba, Tan-ag Ilaya, Lalaguna, Pisipis, and Villa Aurora in Lopez town.

He said that SOTs of the 42nd IB are now conducting seminars in barangays Amoguis, Sta. Rosa, and Anunang in Mulanay town.

Mariano said that the SOT procedure has proven effective in winning back the heart and mind of the barangay folk.

He said that two companies of the CAFGU will be sent to Tagkawayan and Macalelon towns to protect the barangay folk from NPA atrocities and harassment.

Three Navy Officers Cleared of Coup Involvement

HK1306091290 Quezon City DWDD Defense Department Radio in Tagalog 0600 GMT 13 Jun 90

[From "the Military News" program]

[Text] Three more officials of the Philippine Navy accused of involvement in the aborted December coup were acquitted and instructed to return to their service. At the same time, Armed Forces chief General Renato de Villa stressed the need to accelerate the resolution of cases of alleged coup plotters.

In a memorandum order, General de Villa cleared Navy Commodore Amable Costales, Lieutenant Commodore Manuel Pone, and Commodore Lorenzo Altamontero. The dropping of charges of the three brings to 13 the number of alleged coup leaders who have been cleared by the Armed Forces special investigating board.

At present, a total of 250 Army and Navy officers and soldiers remains under detention in the three ships docked at the Manila Bay.

Balance of Payments Deficit Widens 1st Quarter

HK1406054190 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 14 Jun 90 p 8

[By reporter Rexie M. Reyes]

[Text] The country's balance of payments deficit widened sharply to $371 million in the first quarter of 1990 as the current and capital accounts reflected weaker performances, the Central Bank [CB] of the Philippines reported yesterday.

The deficit showed a 4,022 percent deterioration from last year's $9-million deficit for the comparable period. The country posted an end-1989 balance of payments surplus of $1 billion.

Despite fourfold improvements in the non-merchandise trade, current accounts still resulted in a $491-million deficit due to the wider trade gap and the slowdown in net inflows in the transfers account.

Imports far outpaced exports by 45 percent or $877 million, despite the strong export performance in the first quarter. Exports grew 9.4 percent from last year's comparable figure. Substantial increases in export earnings were seen mostly in garments, electronics, coconut oil and centrifugal sugar. Import payments, on the other hand, increased by a large 27.2 percent due to the higher demand for capital goods, particularly power and transport machinery in response to efforts at solving the power outages and rationalizing the transport industry, the Central Bank said.

The trade gap is expected to swell to $2.598 billion or 70 percent higher than the original target of $1.52 billion at the end of the year. Based on the revised projections of the Department of Finance, export earnings will hit $7.821 billion, while import payments are expected to rise to $10.419 billion.

The current accounts deficit is projected to increase to $1.465 billion or 3.3 percent of the country's Gross National Product (GNP) for the year. This revised figure is 52 percent higher than the original target deficit of $958 million.

The non-monetary capital account also registered a deficit of $599 million due to "a steep rise in payments to foreign commercial banks arising from the early redemption of $1.34 billion of public sector debt under the debt buyback operation early this year, as well as the lower net inflows of foreign investments mainly on account of higher capital withdrawals and continued slowdown in the use of CB debt papers under various debt relief schemes," the CB reported.

The increase in payments was expected since the debts repurchased represented about 20 percent of the public sector medium- and long-term commercial bank debt.

The net outflows are projected to increase further as modifications of the cash buyback schemes are implemented by the country's debt panel.

Column Views Reluctance of Japanese To Invest

HK1306050190 Manila BUSINESS STAR in English 13 Jun 90 p 2

["Indicator" column by Rica D. Delfinado: "More Japanese Investors Reluctant to Invest in RP (Republic of the Philippines)"]

[Text] Philippine trade with Japan, considered the country's second biggest single economic partner next to the United States (US), is being hampered by the hesitation of a growing number of Japanese investors to wade into local financial and business waters.

According to the Center for Research and Communication (CRC) in a recent paper, many Japanese investors now hesitate to set up business operations in the country.

Such development is not surprising since there were a good number of Japanese arrivals, either visiting industrialists or tourists, who were caught in the middle of last December's troubles particularly in the Makati business district.

But the situation remains lamentable as the country continues to have characteristics that make it a conducive haven for Japanese and other foreign investments. These characteristics, the CRC said, include the cheaper labor rates and the yen's being 400 more stronger in value than the local currency.

In relation to the former characteristic of the local economy, the CRC refers to one irony in current Philippine-Japanese trade and commerce—that while Japanese industrialists are shunning the country as a base of operations, they continue to absorb Filipino overseas contract workers who go mainly because of the yen's brighter glint. From the Japanese perspective, the question is why spend more for overseas labor in the homeland than at the source of such labor where the same is cheaper?

With regard the peso's value against the yen, the latter's depreciation by 400% from 1980 to October 1989 treats Japanese investments in the Philippines to a big advantage in terms of returns. But even this has not encouraged Japanese investors to go full blast in the local economy.

Another point is that according to the CRC, many Japanese industriatists now prefer Thailand than the Philippines as bases for operations. The reason: many Japanese consider Thailand more politically stable than the Philippines. But what about the fact that Thailand is in the middle of Indochina, a land historically prone to war?

Statistics from Japan's Ministry of Finance show the Philippines as receiving the smallest amount of Japanese investments among other Asian countries which receive Nippon aid. In 1988, the Japanese agency said, the Philippines got only a measly US$134 million in direct investment from Japan, while countries like Hong Kong got $1.7 billion, Thailand received $859 million and Singapore, $747 million. The local political turmoil is certain to aggravate such an investment situation as the confidence of Japanese investors become more impaired by unfolding events.

The depreciated peso vis-a-vis the yen, the CRC said, should be a boon to Philippine exports to Japan since such would make Philippine exports cheaper and more competitive. However, because Philippine exports to Japan are resource-based and thus, susceptible to the vagaries of the world market, the country's exports to the Land of the Rising Sun canot be expected to assume an uptrend, the CRC said.

Statistics from the Central Bank (CB) show the country as being consistently in the red in its trade with Japan from 1985 up to last year when the latter's trading gap with the former stood at a hefty $352 million.

Thailand

Reportage on Chatchai's U.S. Visit Continues

Agreement To Create Trade Panel

BK1606031190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jun 90 p 1

[Report by Phonphimon Kanchanalak and Kanchana Spindler in Washington]

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan and US President George Bush agreed yesterday to set up a joint Thai-US Committee for Commercial Cooperation to boost trade and investment and prevent trade problems from becoming disputes. The committee will be headed by the US Secretary of Commerce and the Thai Commerce Minister.

They also agreed that both countries will work together for a "comprehensive" solution to the Cambodian conflict.

General Chatchai responded to President Bush's request for continued Thai-US investment cooperation and urged that both countries work together to help reconstruction and development efforts in Indochina.

Gen Chatchai, on his first official visit to the United States, elaborated on these four themes last night (Bangkok time) in a speech at the National Press Club.

The Prime Minister said the United States had always been a staunch supporter of Thailand's independence and security and an active partner in Thailand's economic and social development. He said the opportunity had now arisen for both countries to enter into a stronger partnership in a world undergoing rapid changes.

The Prime Minister said that in Southeast Asia, a new order was taking shape, and the region was moving beyond conflict and confrontation towards dialogue and cooperation. Gen Chatchai said he saw signs of peace in Cambodia, adding that the results of the recent Tokyo meeting—of which Thailand and Japan were key organisers—provided a concrete basis that could be built on towards a final settlement.

Thailand's main objective, he said, was to keep the peace process alive. Gen Chatchai said everything must be done to ensure that a solution is reached at the negotiating table and not on the battlefield.

"My incremental approach to peace in Cambodia has therefore been linked to a common goal of a comprehensive peace through the holding of free and fair elections in Cambodia," he said. "The striving towards a political solution is also the beginning of healing of wounds, the turning back of rivalry and hostilities.

"With the improved global and regional situation, let us redouble and coordinate or efforts to bring peace to Cambodia." Gen Chatchai said he welcomed steps taken by the US and permanent members of the UN Security Council in helping to advance the peace process. "As I see it, the various strands of the peace process are now merging into one," Gen Chatchai said.

Commenting on Thai-US trade ties, Gen Chatchai said the relationship had undergone significant changes over the years. At one time the relationship could be described as one of dependency, the Prime Minister said. But today it was one of interdependence and partnership while security ties remained the pillar of bilateral ties.

But Gen Chatchai added it was time to make adjustments to face the challenges and opportunities in the years to come. He alluded to Thai-US trade conflicts by saying that much of the time and energy was spent on resolving contentious trade issues. Gen Chatchai said Thai-US trade problems are the symptoms of Thai success which need to be resolved through negotiation and not unilateral action.

The Prime Minister then referred to the ministerial-level consultative committee which he jointly announced with President Bush which would enable both countries to be alerted to any potential trade issues before they arise. This mechanism, he said, would he in keeping with the Asian philosophy of conflict avoidance and preventing issues from becoming disputes.

Regarding narcotics trafficking, Gen Chatchai told the US Press of the Government's submission to Parliament of four bills aimed at giving authorities greater power to deal with traffickers as a demonstration of Thailand's commitment against the illicit trade.

On investment, Gen Chatchai said Thailand's expanding economy should offer a wide range of opportunities for increased US investment in Thailand. He cited such potential areas for investment as petroleum, petrochemicals, electronics and telecommunications.

Gen Chatchai said both countries should work together to promote the concept of Asia-Pacific Cooperation, resist the tide of protectionism and strengthen the multilateral trade system.

Chatchai Interview at Press Club

BK1606072990 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0530 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] Answering journalists' questions at the National Press Club in Washington D.C. on 15 June about the Japanese role in Southeast Asia, Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan said that previously Japan only had an economic role in the region. Now Japan has played a role in peace talks there.

Asked about a suggestion that the United States urge China to stop its assistance to the Khmer Rouge, the prime minister said that this is a possibility because the United States and Japan have good relations with China.

Asked his opinion on the proposal to turn Guam island into a refugee reception center, the prime minister replied that Thailand would be very pleased if the United States would make such a decision because Thailand is currently shouldering the responsibility of over 500,000 refugees and displaced persons.

Asked why the Thai Government still has not abrogated National Administrative Council Decree No. 42, or Decree 42, the prime minister said that the Thai mass media have made their efforts in this regard. Because Thailand is a democratic country, any amendment to the law will take time. The Thai cabinet agreed to abrogate the decree. However, other laws have to be enacted to cope up with the abrogation of Decree 42 and these are in process.

Asked what will happen when he returns to Thailand, the prime minister responded that the government holds the majority in the House of Representatives.

More on Press Club Session

BK1706050490 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jun 90 p 4

[By Phonphimon Kanchanalak in Washington, D.C.]

[Text] "Did I pass the examination?" Seventy-year-old Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan coyly asked at the end of the question-and-answer session with a disarming but mischievous smile in mockery of the Washington norm where everybody takes himself so seriously. The crowd responded with laughter.

It was Gen [General] Chatchai at his best and true to his form at the National Press Club luncheon early yesterday morning (Bangkok time)—his last function in Washington. The crowd of some 300 at the luncheon loved him just as the viewers of the 3,600 stations of C-Span network would love him, not to mention the listeners of the high-minded National Public Radio Stations who found him amusing, interesting and witty.

Tom Squiteri of USA Today—who is also treasurer of the National Press Club—introduced the Thai "no-problem" prime minister as a "motorcycle-riding leader with a flair for both disco and money-making." And with that overture, Gen Chatchai played his tune.

"To tell you the truth," he began his speech, "I had been warned that this could be the toughest session I would face in the course of my visit to the US."

For that reason he told the audience, who he referred to as "heavyweights" of American journalism, that he had been advised to keep his guard up. In fact, he need not have worried.

After reading from the prepared speech on themes echoed throughout the visit—Thai-US economic relations, Cambodia, narcotics, Thai democracy and economic growth—Gen Chatchai and his audience were primed for the question-and-answer session. There were serious—some tough, some not so tough—questions. But one by one the prime minister answered them all directly and obliquely, wasting no time, and without pauses or hesitation.

Asked if the US should lift the embargo on Vietnam, he did not answer "yes" or "no" because that would be looked upon as an easy way out. Gen Chatchai rhetorically said he believed the war was over.

Asked how realistic was his proposal that the United States put economic pressure on China, the prime minister did not say whether it was easy or unrealistic. He simply said it was possible.

On regional security, Gen Chatchai said he preferred the American military installations of Clark and Subic Bay stay in the Philippines but "nothing like this in Thailand. We are Buddhists."

Asked about the draconian Decree 42, the prime minister said he was going to change the law but did not elaborate on how and when.

By this time, Washington's "heavyweights" realised that they were only going to get one-liner responses, but they did not seem to mind.

Gen Chatchai told the Americans he wanted their investment in petrochemical and electronics to counter Japanese investment in Thailand.

He said in very few words that "You don't even have to ask how much influence you want to allow Japan to have in Southeast Asia. The Japanese already recognise their influence and are asserting it."

The prime minister said he wants the United States to set up a refugee camp in Guam for Vietnamese boat people from Thailand so Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur did not have to "redirect" them to sea.

Asked what he would ask for if he could have his wish with the Americans, Gen Chatchai said: "build superhighways."

Apart from answering questions, Na Chat [Uncle Chatchai] did not shy away from giving advice either. His response to the question on market access for American cigarettes was: "No smoking, no cancer." He suggested the US pass a law to stipulate that those who do not go to vote have to pay (a fine) in order to solve the problem of low voter turn-out in American elections.

The audience appeared to hold their breath when one journalist asked what the situation in Thailand would be like when he returns. Gen Chatchai chuckled and simply said he had a majority in the House.

The only question he had trouble tackling was the one on Burmese logging, environmental and human rights concerns. In stark contrast to the rest of his performance, he said very little on the subject.

At the end of the session, everybody who was there seemed happy except reporters who were out to cover a real serious news story. One reporter described Gen Chatchai as "funny boy." But that, ladies and gentlemen, is not news.

Chatchai Departs Washington

BK1606025090 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan and his delegation concluded their visit to Washington, D.C. and left Andrews Air Force Base for New York at 1420 local time on 15 June, or about 0120 Thai time on 16 June. According to the schedule, the prime minister will meet Thai residents in New York before meeting the United Nations secretary general and presiding over a ceremony to open a branch of the Bank of Thailand at the Helmsley Hotel.

A correspondent of the Public Relations Department reported that at 1030 local time on 15 June, several U.S. senior leaders, including U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, called on the prime minister at Blair House. At 1200, the prime minister attended a luncheon with members of the Thai and U.S. private sectors at the National Press Club. He also delivered a speech there. This is the latest activity of the prime minister in Washington D.C.

The U.S. Government held an official send-off ceremony for the prime minister at the (?Reflecting Pool). The U.S. acting secretary of state and the chief of protocol were present at the ceremony. After that, the prime minister left Washington, D.C. for New York.

In addition, on the afternoon of 14 June after his meeting with U.S. President George Bush, Prime Minister Gen. Chatchai visited the U.S. Congress on Capitol Hill. The prime minister met Thomas Foley, U.S. House speaker; Robert Michel, the Republican leader in the House of Representatives; George Mitchell, Senate majority leader from the Democratic Party; and Robert Dole, the Republican leader in the Senate. On the occasion, the chairmen of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee jointly hosted a party in honor of the prime minister at the Congress building.

At 1700 on 14 June, the prime minister and his delegation attended a party hosted by the Thai Embassy in Washington at the (Pakin Dumet) restaurant. [passage omitted]

Meeting With UN Secretary General

BK1706015390 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 17 Jun 90 pp 1, 3

[By Kanjana Spindler in New York]

[Text] United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar told Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan yesterday that the UN fully supports Thailand's proposal to set up neutral camps for Cambodian refugees, sources close to the Prime Minister said.

Gen [Genera] Chatchai flew to New York to meet Mr Perez de Cuellar early yesterday (Bangkok time) after speaking to the National Press Club in Washington.

The UN Secretary General and Gen Chatchai met for about 45 minutes at the United Nations headquarters. Ten high-ranking Thai officials were present, including Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila.

Gen Chatchai told the UN Secretary General that Thailand wanted the UN to be involved in administering the camps, adding that the European Community and Japan had agreed to help finance camp operations, the sources said. He said Thailand would also like to see a total UN involvement in the International Control Mechanism [ICM] in a Cambodian resolution.

Gen Chatchai briefed Mr Perez de Cuellar on the results of the Tokyo talks which led to the linkage between the voluntary military self-restraint and the convening of the Supreme National Council [SNC]. Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Phnom Penh prime minister Hun Sen signed an agreement in Tokyo last week calling for voluntary self-restraint of hostilities and the convening and establishment of a Supreme National Council.

The SNC was to comprise representatives of the four warring factions and have 12 members—six from the Phnom Penh regime and six from the resistance in which there would be two representatives each from the three resistance factions. The Khmer Rouge, which did not attend the talks, have said they will not send representatives to the SNC which is supposed to meet for the first time at the end of July.

The Prime Minister said he would like the United Nations to brief the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council on the Tokyo talks, the source said. According to the sources, the UN Secretary General expressed his concern over China's position regarding the Permanent Five issue.

Gen Chatchai suggested that dialogue between the US and China and between the US and the UN be the way to resolve differences. Mr Perez de Cuellar informed the Thai side that a UN fact-finding team had visited Phnom Penh to examine the issue of refugees.

The Thai side maintained that the relationship between the United Nations and Cambodia should be through negotiations between the SNC and the UN, sources said. Thailand still viewed the Paris Conference as having "utmost importance" as an international forum to establish an ICM, the sources said. "However, if an SNC is constituted, it is the task of the SNC to deal directly with the UN agency," they said.

Chatchai 16 Jun Interview

BK1706042590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0000 GMT 17 Jun 90

[Report by Fongsaman Chamonchan from New York]

[Text] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan arrived in New York from Washington D.C. and stayed at the Plaza Hotel. He granted an interview to journalists at 10:15 a.m. local time on 16 June at the hotel on the results of his meeting with U.S. President George Bush. The first topic of their discussion was on bringing peace to Cambodia.

[Begin Chatchai recording] The meeting with President Bush achieved good results, which we needed. I did not expect to receive so much generosity from the president. He agreed with our efforts on the Cambodian issue. The two countries held identical views on bringing peace to Cambodia as soon as possible. The Khmer Rouge remains as an obstacle. I asked President Bush to ask China to stop sending weapons to the Khmer Rouge because this is the only way to bring peace to Cambodia as soon as possible. Japan also must talk to China in this regard. Prime Minister Kaifu sent a delegation to talk with China. I believe that the chances of bringing peace to Cambodia are better and brighter. I believe peace will be brought to Cambodia soon. [end recording]

Regarding narcotics suppression, the prime minister said that Thailand and the United States will cooperate closely to reduce the narcotics demand and to suppress narcotics production and trafficking.

[Begin Chatchai recording] Thailand and the United States must cooperate closely in narcotics suppression. I asked the United States to use psychological and medical methods to reduce its people's demand for narcotics in order to help us. We have enacted a law with severe punishment. We also will begin our severe narcotics suppression. I believe that this will help reduce the supply of narcotics. In fact, narcotics are not produced in Thailand. They are produced outside of Thailand but Thailand is used as a trafficking route. So, we must try to prevent these illicit products from entering and leaving our country. We must punish the narcotics traffickers heavily. [end recording]

Regarding the trade and investment problems between Thailand and the United States, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said that both sides agreed to hold talks through a ministerial-level consultative committee for closer coordination.

[Begin Chatchai recording] We have agreed to set up a joint committee between Thailand and the United States; a consultative mechanism. This is a new step in

Thailand's close cooperation with the United States. We also discussed several other issues, all of which the United States responded well to. On the issue of aviation rights, it can be said that the United States will allow Thai flights to stop at any destinations. This is considered a new step. I believe diplomatic relations between Thailand and the United States are excellent, as are trade relations. I would like to thank President George Bush and his Cabinet for trying to help Thailand. [end recording]

Concerning his meeting with United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar in New York, Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan said that the United Nations secretary general agreed with Thailand's efforts to bring peace to Cambodia.

[Begin Chatchai recording] After our arrival at Kennedy Airport in New York, we met United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar. We discussed two issues. Regarding the issue of peace in Cambodia, the secretary general agreed with the policy being carried out by Thailand. In addition, he also agreed with our proposal to set up neutral camps for Cambodian refugees. The European Common Market has already agreed to provide financial assistance for this project. So, there will be close coordination between the United States and Western European countries in this regard. [end recording]

Regarding the country's political problems, the Thai prime minister said that he would preserve the democratic system as best as he could. On the occasion, he also answered questions about the selection of a new defense minister.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai] There is nothing to worry about. Everyone is trying to preserve the democratic system. Since we have reached such a level, we can not retreat; the people will not allow this. I am one of the people who has to preserve the democratic system

[Unidentified correspondent] How about the post of defense minister?

[Chatchai] We have to consult on this issue. You know that I do not want to let the Defense Ministry get involved in politics .

[Second correspondent] Is the person you are considering for this position a politician?

[Chatchai] The person to become defense minister will be a military careerist. However, I have not made a decision. I have to select a person who is respected by the soldiers. There is no problem. While I was defense minister, everything in the ministry went very smoothly. [end recording]

Chawalit Invited To 'Come Back'

BK1806065890 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0545 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Report by Radio Thailand correspondent Fongsaman Chamonchan from Los Angeles—recorded]

[Excerpt] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan will ask Gen. Chawalit Yongchaiyut, former defense minister who has resigned from his post, to resume that duty.

At 1800 local time on 17 June at the Beverly (word indistinct) Hotel in Los Angeles, Prime Minister Gen. Chatchai Chunhawan granted an interview to Thai reporters from Los Angeles and surrounding areas, and to reporters from Thailand itself. Chatchai said:

[Begin Chatchai recording] In fact, Gen. Chawalit has been very close to me. I want him to...[incomplete sentence]. I am getting very old...over 70 already. I want to take a rest. It's time for me to rest. My physical condition can no longer stand the hard work of the post of prime minister. This is because I sleep only a few hours each day. I have to sit and work about 17-18 hours every day. I have seen that Khun Chawalit is the best man for the job. Moreover, he is a military man. Thailand has never been without a military. It always needs cooperation from the military. It is just the nature of the country. I therefore invite Khun Chawalit to come back. The fact that Khun Chawalit has resigned from the government is not a problem. It's not a problem. I intend to invite him back to the Government. How can the dispute between Khun Chaloem [Minister attached to the Prime Minister's Office] and Khun Chawalit affect the Government? It is a different matter. It is just a personal affair. [passage omitted] [End recording]

Chatchai on U.S. Weapons Purchase

BK1806102590 Bangkok Domestic Service in Thai 0545 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Report by Radio Thailand correspondent Fongsaman Chamonchan from Los Angeles on Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's interview with Thai correspondents based in Los Angeles—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Prime Minister General Chatchai Chunhawan discussed many issues with the Thai correspondents in Los Angeles. Among them was Chatchai proposing the United States maintain its military bases in the Philippines in order to preserve the balance of power in the region. He said the following in this regard:

[Begin recording] [Chatchai] On the possibility of the Philippines evicting the U.S. military bases because the two countries have failed to reach agreement on rental fees, I think the American bases will stay in any case. I believe so because the Soviet Union is still using Vietnam's Cam Ranh Bay as a naval base. If the United States removes its bases from the Philippines, which is opposite the Vietnamese bay, the South China Sea will then fall under the greater influence of the Soviet Union. Because of this, I requested of the U.S. President that the United States not withdraw its military bases from the Philippines. I hope the United States will do so in order to counterbalance the Soviet presence in Vietnam. This was a multilateral issue that we discussed with the President.

Apart from this, we also discussed military issues. The President has accepted the Thai request to buy U.S. military weapons for the Thai Armed Forces. The United States is planning arms reductions in Europe, and it will not be returning those weapons to the United States. Therefore, Thailand has proposed to buy the armaments to bolster our national defense capabilities. When I was defense minister, I followed a policy of "good fence, good neighbor." If we have a strong fence, we will have good neighbors. That is the meaning of "good fence, good neighbor." Therefore, we have to prepare ourselves right now. [end recording]

The prime minister also informed the Thai correspondents in Los Angeles that as a result of the talks with the U.S. Government, it has agreed to allow Thailand flights to Los Angeles, in addition to the only two U.S. flight destinations it has, Dallas and Seattle.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai] In the future, Thai International Airways will have a flight to Los Angeles, as soon as possible, within the next few months.

[Correspondent] This year?

[Chatchai] Yes, this year.

[Correspondent] Could you please [words indistinct]?

[Chatchai] There will be six destinations altogether. We have already held negotiations on this matter. At present, we have our flights to only two destinations—Seattle and Dallas—do we not? [end recording]

Apart from this, the correspondents [words indistinct] the prime minister. The first issue they asked about was corruption in the Thai Government. Chatchai told the correspondents that the corruption issue has discouraged many members of the government from making decisions on several big projects for fear of being criticized. This has sometimes resulted in delaying the work of the country.

[Begin recording] [Chatchai] We have talked about the issue of corruption time and time again. I used to be a member of the opposition. When the opposition could not find any fault with the government, it simply said there is corruption. There is just nothing else for the opposition to say. Corruption... [laughter] Driving a state-owned car to lunch could be considered corruption, could it not? What they have claimed to be corruption has never been proven to be true. In what way is it corrupt? As a result of this, no one dares to touch most of the big projects. Traffic congestion is now becoming more and more serious. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Editorial on Accomplishments

BK1806021390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 90 p 10

[Editorial: "Behind the Smiles"]

[Text] The supreme commander and the commanders of the army, navy and air force were all smiles when they joined the prime minister in posing for photos at Bangkok airport last Monday [11 June] Their amiable appearance while sending the prime minister off for his official US trip belied the political tension generated by the sudden resignation of Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut as deputy prime minister and defence minister a few hours earlier.

Although Prime Minister Gen [General] Chatchai Chunhawan has said he was "shocked" by Chawalit's insistence on resigning, he managed to keep his composure during his US visit and did his best to promote Thailand's interests. He and President George Bush agreed on the formation of a committee for bilateral discussion on trade and economic issues at the ministerial level. This was what the Chatchai administration has sought all along, and the agreement represented a concrete outcome of his talks with President Bush.

Premier Chatchai also tried to draw US attention to the Cambodian conflict and asked for active US participation in speeding up the international process to end the violence in Cambodia and restoring peace to Thailand's war-torn neighbouring country. President Bush pledged to continue US diplomatic efforts and voiced support for Thailand's incremental approach to resolving the Cambodian conflict. But no one in the Bush administration would promise to try to persuade China to stop the arms supply to the Khmer Rouge and make the radical Cambodian communist faction participate in the peace process in good faith.

The talks on Cambodia in Washington apparently did not produce any significant outcome or positive change in US policy, as the prime minister and his advisers had hoped for. But at least the Bush administration voiced support for Thailand's initiatives and expressed its intentions of cooperating with Thai diplomatic efforts in the peace process.

The prime minister also tried to attract American investment and technology to Thailand. At the National Press club, he fended off tough questions about child prostitution, Thai loggers destroying forests in Burma and Decree 42 with his considerable wit.

He was asked, for example, whether the US should resume economic aid to Vietnam. He responded: "I believe the war is over." He also dismissed the political threat from the Opposition and assured the American media of the stability of his administration as well as the continuity of political development in Thailand.

All in all, the prime minister's efforts are commendable although he fell short of securing a US promise to take Thailand off the priority watch list for trade violations because of what the US charges is widespread disregard of American intellectual property rights in Thailand.

At home, Army Chief Gen Suchinda Kraprayoon did his part in keeping things under control. So far so good.

However, we were amazed by the sensational announcement on Friday evening of Supreme Commander Gen Sunthonrn Kongsompong's appointment of Chawalit as "special adviser" to the Supreme Command, the National Security Command and the three branches of the armed forces. Army-owned TV Channels 5 and 7 interrupted prime-time news to announce the appointment, as if it were a matter of national emergency. Channel 7 actually cut off news about the prime minister making his departure remarks at the White House to air General Sunthorn's order.

The interruption might have be an unfortunate coincidence or a technical problem at the station in question. But how could General Sunthorn justify the sensationalism employed in airing the announcement?

The prime minister is scheduled to return to Bangkok tomorrow evening. We shall see whether he and the military leaders, including General Sunthorn, will still be smiling at each other. Let's see if any of the latter excuse themselves and do not show up at the airport to welcome the prime minister back.

Chawalit Advisory Appointment, Successor Viewed

BK1606022190 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 16 Jun 90 p 1

[Text] Former defence minister Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut was yesterday appointed a special adviser to the Armed Forces by Supreme Commander Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong. Gen Sunthon, a close friend and former classmate of Gen Chawalit, cited the need to protect the country's independence, sovereignty, security, religion and the monarchy for the appointment which took effect immediately.

Copies of the order making Gen Chawalit an adviser to the Supreme Command, the Army, the Navy and the Air Force were distributed to the media yesterday and read on Army television stations last night.

A military source close to Gen Sunthon said the Supreme Commander wanted to maintain Gen Chawlit's official connection with the Armed Forces so that he would be able to help in national affairs, particularly concerning the Cambodian problem and the "Green Northeast" development project.

Gen Chawalit resigned as deputy prime minister and defence minister on Monday in an apparent protest over Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan's inaction over his dispute with Prime Minister's Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung following the latter's corruption remarks apparently aimed at Gen Chawalit.

Gen Chawalit's sudden departure from the Chatchai administration sparked speculation about who would succeed him.

Among names mentioned as possibilities for the defence portfolio were former permanent secretary for defence Gen Wichit Wichitsongkhram, former Armed Forces adviser and Gen Chawalit's secretary Gen Phat Akkhanitbut, and former interior minister Gen Sitthi Chirarot.

Gen Sitthi, a senator, yesterday denied he had been approached to accept the defence post, but said the new defence minister should be both a former military man and a member of the Lower House. He said only a person with such qualifications would best serve as defence minister because nobody would be able to criticise him for being a non-elected Cabinet member.

Meanwhile, a key Cabinet member said he would ask the Prime Minister to take up the defence post again. Prime Minister Chatchai also held the defence post before he gave it to Gen Chawalit following the latter's resignation as Army chief.

The minister, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said he would urge Gen Chatchai to accept the defence post because tension might result if a retired military man was appointed to the post again. "I would object to any attempt by Gen Chatchai to appoint someone else to the post. We think he should hold that post for security reasons.

"How could the Prime Minister give the post to someone else in this situation? It would be too dangerous to do so." He said Gen Chawalit was given the post for political reasons and, after his decision to give up the position, there was no reason for the Premier to appoint another retired military man to replace him.

Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun had said earlier that the Army would not nominate any person for the defence post because the Premier should be able to find a suitable and capable candidate to fill the vacancy. But he added that a civilian defence minister might not know anything about military affairs.

Commenting on Gen Chawalit's appointment as an adviser to the Supreme Command, Gen Suchinda said it is normal for senior military officers who have resigned or retired like Gen Chawalit to be appointed a special adviser to the Supreme Command. Gen Suchinda put for example Field Marshals Thanom Kittikhachon and Praphat Charusathian who had been given the same positions in the armed forces by virtue of their knowledge and experience.

As a special adviser, Gen Chawalit would have a duty similar to those of other advisers, the Army chief said.

But Supreme Command spokesman Narudon Detpradiyut said Gen Chawalit is the first to be appointed special adviser to the Supreme Command due to his outstanding capabilities.

Advisers have been appointed to work for either one of the three services, but Gen Chawalit will be working for the Supreme Command where all the services function together.

—Deputy Prime Minister Thianchai Sirisamphan yesterday denied he had been approached to hold the additional post of defence minister but said he was ready to take on any responsibility given him by Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan. Gen Thianchai said he personally believed there were several military officers capable of assuming responsibility for the defence portfolio.

He said, however, that only the Prime Minister had a say on the issue. Any person to be appointed defence minister must have knowledge of military affairs and understand soldiers, he said. The post could be given to lower ranking military officers who had the capability and should not be limited to top military brass, he said.

Chatchai Said To Plan Alliances 'Realignment'

BK1806014390 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 Jun 90 p 1

[By Suthichai Yoon in Los Angeles]

[Text] Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan plans a major "re-alignment" of his political and military alliances to consolidate his position, weakened by the resignation of his deputy Gen [General] Chawalit Yongchaiyut, sources close to the prime minister said yesterday. The sources told THE NATION that one of Chatchai's immediate tasks upon returning home from his US trip would be to create a new rapport with military leaders.

"The prime minister needs to offer some confidence-building measures to show the armed forces that he is not hostile to them," said one of Chatchai's aides. He said Chatchai would have to convince military leaders that Chawalit, once groomed as his heir-apparent, resigned of his own accord. "It was just an unfortunate incident," he said.

Chatchai, who is due home tomorrow, has denied that he was behind PM's Office Minister Chaloem Yubamrung's attacks on Chawalit that prompted the resignation.

The sources said the no-confidence debate planned by opposition parties against the government is now secondary to Chatchai's efforts to realign his alliances with political parties and military leaders. The Opposition has declared it plans to submit its no-confidence motion on Thursday.

The sources said Chatchai would move to reshuffle his Cabinet once he is assured of support from the military. "It's very necessary for Chatchai to reshuffle his Cabinet as a result of the recent political events to demonstrate that he is still in charge," one of the sources said.

"In short, the most important task lying ahead for Chatchai is to form a new rapport with the military and then show the government and opposition parties and the public that he is still in charge," he added. "But he will be walking a political tightrope," the sources said.

Chawalit's resignation last Monday triggered wild speculation about Chatchai's political future. Former army chief Chawalit, who joined the Chatchai government slightly more than two months ago, on the other hand will depend heavily on support from his former subordinates in the armed forces to boost his political standing. But the sources said Chatchai believes that Chawalit, who was also defence minister, has limited influence in the armed forces since quitting the military in March this year.

Chatchai's confidence was apparently lifted with an assurance from Army Commander in Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun that he would not interfere in his political affairs. Suchinda, who succeeded Chawalit, was quoted as telling Chatchai last Monday that he did not consider the latest political upheaval to be a confrontation between the military and the government.

Suchinda also referred to soldiers who staged public support for Chawalit as "his former subordinates who wanted to show their loyalty to their old boss."

Several key military commanders were angry that Chatchai did not intervene in the dispute between Chawalit and Minister Chaloem. They believed that Chatchai was responsible for Chaloem's veiled corruption charges against Chawalit, who was in charge of the Counter Corruption Commission, in order to force him out of the government.

"It would be crazy for me to try to pressure Khun Chawalit out of my government—especially before making the trip to the US and after so much pleading on my part to him to join my government," Chatchai told THE NATION in an interview.

Chatchai said he had declared publicly on several occasions that he wanted Chawalit to become the next prime minister and leader of the Chat Thai Party. "I was sincere about it. Why should I then try to pressure him out as alleged in some circles?" he asked

Chatchai's aides indicated that the prime minister would not remove Chaloem or Deputy Interior Minister Trairong Suwankhiri. Trairong reportedly offended Chawalit by challenging him to run in a by-election, saying it was more difficult to become an MP [member of parliament] than a general.

Vietnam

National Assembly Opens 7th Session in Hanoi

BK1506135190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Summary] "The seventh session of the Eighth National Assembly was solemnly opened this morning, 14 June, at the Ba Dinh conference hall in Hanoi. Attending the opening meeting were 466 of the 495 National Assembly deputies. Before attending the meeting, the national deputies paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum." Also present were Comrade Nguyen Van Linh, general secretary of the Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee; Comrade Pham Van Dong, advisor to the CPV Central Committee; Comrade Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State; Comrade Do Muoi, chairman of the Council of Ministers; and many other comrade members of the CPV Central Committee Political Bureau and Secretariat. A large number of local and foreign press, radio, and television correspondents in Hanoi turned up to cover the session.

In his opening speech, National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao said:

[Begin Le Quang Dao recording] "Dear National Assembly deputies: This session of the National Assembly is being held in a year when the people throughout the country and in the world are solemnly commemorating the birth centenary of great President Ho Chi Minh, founder of the CPV and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam [SRV]. To express respect for and endless gratitude to esteemed President Ho Chi Minh, we, National Assembly deputies, pledge to follow his shining example by striving to fulfill our responsibility as representatives and faithful servants of the people. We also pledge before our entire people to translate his lofty concepts into realities in our beloved Vietnamese fatherland.

"Dear National Assembly deputies: To satisfy the needs arising from the process of renovation in accordance with the spirit of the Sixth CPV Congress resolution, at this session the National Assembly will devote much time to wrestling with legislative work. We will concentrate on examining and passing the draft law on agricultural tax, the draft law on turnover tax, the draft law on special consumption, the draft law on interest, the draft law on trade unions, the draft law on Vietnam's maritime industry, the draft law on amendments to some provisions of the criminal procedure code, and the draft law on amendments to some provisions of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.

"Meanwhile, the National Assembly will present its views on the draft on businesses, private businesses, and joint stock companies before making an announcement for the people to offer their opinions.

"At this session, the National Assembly will hear the Council of Ministers and various responsible organs report on the implementation during the first six months of this year of the National Assembly's sixth session resolution on socioeconomic tasks and state budget for 1990; the results of the banking sector's inspection work, the situation rgearding social security, order, and safety; and the foreign relations activities of our state during the first six months of 1990. It will also examine a number of other important issues.

"Dear National Assembly deputies, in light of the CPV Central Committee's eighth plenum resolution, our National Assembly will bring its collective intellect into play and instill democracy in its debates in order to contribute many constructive suggestions to making this session a success, thus helping to actively and gradually stabilize the socioeconomic situation and continue advancing the country's process of comprehensive renovation." [end recording] [applause].

In a session under the guidance of Chairman Le Quang Dao, the National Assembly heard Minister of Communications, Transportation, and Posts Bui Danh Luu, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, read a report on the draft law on Vietnam's maritime industry, and Head of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan read a report on the draft law on amendments to some provisions of the law on foreign investment in Vietnam.

"Next, Comrade Tran Quyet, chief procurator of the Supreme People's Organ of Control, delivered a report on the draft law on amendments to some provisions of the criminal procedure code; Comrade Nguyen Van Tu, president of the Confederation of Vietnamese Workers, delivered a report on amendments to the draft law on trade unions which have been made after soliciting opinions from National Assembly deputies at the sixth session, as well as from various echelons, sectors, and mass organizations.

"After a report on a draft law was delivered, a representative of the National Assembly Judiciary Committee was assigned to verify that report before submitting it to the National Assembly."

In the afternoon sitting, on behalf of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Hoang Quy, minister of finance, presented the opinions contributed by the people and National Assembly deputies. He also delivered a report on the four draft laws on taxation—agricultural, turnover, special consumption, and interest—which have all been revised. Comrade Hoang Quy said:

"After the four draft laws on taxation were made public by the Council of State more than two months ago, the people of all strata throughout the country have contributed more than 40,000 opinions for amendments to many provisions of these draft laws."

Next, Comrade Mai Thuc Lan, vice chairman of the National Assembly Economics, Planning, and Budget

Committee, presented the committee's opinions about the four draft laws on taxation.

On behalf of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Minister of Fiance Hoang Quy presented the council's report on exemption of agricultural tax for peasants in accordance with President Ho Chi Minh's testament for the 1990-91 period.

On behalf of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Minister of Justice Phan Hien delivered the council's report on the draft of a trade law involving the private sector and share-holding corporations. Finally, Comrade Nguyen Hoa, acting head of the National Assembly Economics, Planning, and Budget Committee, presented the committee's views on this draft law.

"Tomorrow, 15 June, at the Ba Dinh conference hall, the seventh session of the Eighth National Assembly will discuss the draft law on trade unions and the draft law on agricultural tax."

15 Jun Discussion Reported

BK1506145990 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1400 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] On 15 June, the National Assembly held its plenary session at the conference hall under the guidance of Chairman Le Quang Dao.

In the morning, the National Assembly discussed the draft law on trade unions. Some 33 National Assembly deputies expressed their views, which were focused on discussing the role of trade unions in determining such matters as wages, bonuses, and housing and formulating social policies and the policy on social insurance management as stipulated by the law, as well as on a number of other important issues. The National Assembly entrusted its Judiciary Committee and the committee responsible for drafting the law on trade unions with revising this law.

In the afternoon, the National Assembly held a preliminary discussion of the draft law on agricultural tax and decided that on 16 June, it will work in groups to exchange views on specific issues concerning the four draft laws on taxation.

16 Jun Discussion Reported

BK1606114890 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 16 Jun 90

[Text] The Eighth National Assembly's seventh session entered its third day of work today on 16 June. The national assembly deputies held group discussions on four draft laws: agricultural taxation, trade profits, special consumption, and income.

18 Jun Discussion Reported

BK1806055690 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 18 Jun 90

[Text] This morning, 18 June, deputies attending the SRV Eighth National Assembly's seventh session conducted group discussions on the draft maritime law. Their discussions focused on five issues which include:

—state management on maritime activities,
—state policy on private economic components carrying out maritime activities,
—state policy on promoting foreign investment in sea transportation in Vietnam,
—policy on registration of sea vessels entering and leaving Vietnam, and
—measures to resolve conflicts in maritime activities.

This is a law involving many specialized, complicated aspects. As a result, National Assembly deputies have carefully studied every provision and deliberately discussed every word.

Many deputies proposed that the private sector should be allowed to handle maritime activities at home only, and that if they want to expand their activities abroad it should be carried out in the form of state-private collective joint ventures. The state shall take responsibility in managing maritime activities.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will continue its group discussions on the draft maritime law.

People's Expectations Viewed

BK1706142790 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1000 GMT 14 Jun 90

[From the press review]

[Text] NHAN DAN front-pages an article entitled: "What Do Voters Nationwide Expect From This National Assembly Session?" The article says: The primary concern of voters in Hanoi is the stagnation of industrial, small industrial, and handicraft production since early 1990. According to many voters, no progress has been made in these areas. Many difficult problems have remained unresolved. Consequently, the rate of unemployment has increased with each passing day. The situation calls for an early solution. Otherwise, public security could be affected.

Tran Dinh Dam, head of the National Assembly delegation from Quang Nam-Danang Province, said: Regarding the law on agricultural tax, peasants and many veteran revolutionaries have expressed concern that a sharp tax hike would neutralize the tax exemption granted in accordance with President Ho Chi Minh's will.

Dealing with local peasants' aspirations, Nguyen Ha Phan, head of the National Assembly delegation from the rice-growing province of Hau Giang said: In recent meetings, most of the voters have expressed joy over the fact that the province has steadily increased its paddy yield, that marked progress has been made in public security and order maintenance, and that National Assembly deputies' activities have responded more and more quickly to people's aspirations. Nonetheless, many voters are worried about the current enormous increase in the price of fertilizers and the stagnation of industrial, small industrial, and handicraft production. Others have complained about an unexpected decrease in bank interest rates and the price hike of some materials.

Voters have highly appreciated the proper agenda that this National Assembly session has reserved for the debates on different draft laws. Nonetheless, they suggest that National Assembly deputies pay their utmost attention to urgent socioeconomic issues and take measures to prevent inflation from recurring.

Nguyen Van Linh Addresses Press Center Meeting

Installment One

BK1406150590 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 13 Jun 90

["First installment" of "excerpts" from party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's address at a meeting at the Hanoi Press Center on 13 June to mark the 65th anniversary of the Vietnam Press Day—read by announcer]

[Text] Dear comrades: Lately, the Vietnamese people and the progressive world people have organized diversified activities to commemorate the birth centenary of President Ho Chi Minh, a national liberation hero and a great man of culture. In the meantime, Vietnamese journalists have organized activities to commemorate the traditional press day, which marks the birth of THANH NIEN [Youth], the first revolutionary paper founded by venerated Uncle Ho 65 years ago. It was that very revolutionary sparkle kindled by THANH NIEN that has fanned up a burning revolutionary flame in the hearts of our patriotic young generations, workers, peasants, and intellectuals throughout the country, thus contributing to laying the ideological, political, and organizational groundwork for the birth of the Communist Party of Vietnam. Thus, from the very outset, the revolutionary Vietnamese press has closely linked its activities with our people's revolutionary cause.

Since the birth of THANH NIEN 65 years ago, our country has covered a long and extremely glorious stage of revolutionary development. Our country has achieved independence and unification. Our people have enjoyed liberty, freed themselves from oppression and exploitation, and started building a new life. As far as the contingent of journalists is concerned, it has grown up in many fields both quantitatively and qualitatively. It has enthusiastically worked with the entire people in carrying out socialist construction and defense of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland.

In the past, the publication of THANH NIEN was done in secret and with a very limited readership and rudimentary printing facilities. At present, in addition to hundreds of papers, magazines, and radio and television networks, numerous relatively modern and multipurposed audio-visual facilities have operated throughout the country. These achievements are of very great importance and a source of pride.

At this meeting today, on behalf of the Party Central Committee, I would like to convey my cordial greetings and best wishes for good health to our comrade correspondents, editors, radio broadcasters, and professional cadres in charge of press management and training who are either present at this meeting today or are on work assignment at central and local press agencies.

Dear comrades: For many years now, particularly since the sixth party congress, the press and other mass media in our country have made new progress and have been welcomed and supported by numerous readers, listeners, and viewers. These changes for the better have been manifested mainly in the following domains:

First, the press has supplied increasingly rich and diversified information; has met the people's multifaced spiritual need ranging from important political issues at home to burning problems worldwide; and has covered economic, cultural, social, and national defense issues as well as the daily activities of all strata of the society.

Second, while providing the readership with more information, the press has devoted efforts to introducing party and state renovation policies to the people. As far as this issue is concerned, the press must not only simply perform its duty of information but must also elucidate the effects of party and state policies and must reflect the people's creativity in implementing these policies, thus contributing to adjusting and perfecting these policies as well as to motivating the people to actively engage in socialist construction and defense of the socialist fatherland. I believe that since this is a very important task, we all should give our support and encouragement.

Third, the press has actively responded to the antinegativism campaign and has accurately reflected good examples and good models emerging in many different localities and areas of activities.

Fourth, the press has not only served as an organ of public opinion for party and mass organizations but has also become a forum of the people. The voice of the laboring people, the producers of material and spiritual goods and the real masters of our society, has been heard more and more directly and loudly through the press with every passing day. This is important because it reflects the laboring people's right of mastery and entitlement to political democracy in society, which are special features marking the difference between our political system and other political systems.

Fifth, the press and other mass media have tried to improve both forms and styles to make them more appealing to readers, listeners, and viewers.

In pointing out the main achievements mentioned above, I want to say that Vietnamese journalists are worthy of the trust placed in them by our party and people and of being an assault force on the ideological front in the national renovation undertaking. Comrades, my hearty congratulations and commendation. I hope you will perform even more satisfactorily your function as pen-wielding fighters on the information front.

Dear comrades: Perhaps you will all agree with me that we cannot be content with what we have achieved. Revolution is always an unceasing undertaking to seek, create, and renovate. Something that was considered progressive yesterday may become backward today. It is not enough just to do things; it is necessary that we do them better and better. This is all the more true because there have been mistakes and shortcomings in our work.

In view of the revolutionary tasks facing us today and in the immediate future, reviewing one's work, correctly evaluating oneself, and improving upon one's abilities are indispensable factors for developing even more effectively the positive role of the revolutionary press. In this spirit, I would like to raise some issues as food for thought.

The biggest overall question asked by press workers is how they should continue with the renovation process in their own field. As a matter of general principle, it is quite easy for us to agree that the press is part of the ideological work being carried out under the party's leadership. The goal of the press is to serve the interests of the fatherland and the people and to promote the renovation process, with the aim of building and defending socialism in Vietnam and positively contributing to the struggle for peace, national independence, democracy, and social progress in the world. The objective of the renovation undertaking in general and of renovation of the press in particular is to realize even more satisfactorily and effectively the targets and principles for socialist construction and to overcome the old, outmoded, or erroneous ways of thinking and doing things.

Installment Two

BK1506152190 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 13 Jun 90

["Final installment" of "excerpts" from party General Secretary Nguyen Van Linh's address at a meeting at the Hanoi press center on 13 June to mark the 65th anniversary of the Vietnam Press Day—read by announcer]

[Text] The general secretary said: Dear comrades, at one time the press emphasized the one-sided embellishment of information, painting only rosy aspects of the truth. However, since the end of the party's sixth congress, the press has changed for the better in several ways.

He criticized the viewpoint that negates the past and maintains that the press has only illustrated the political lines. Yet, he asserted that it would not be correct to say that to illustrate and explain the policies is not the task of the press. The problem is how to make it attractive and persuasive. The general secretary stressed that the press should continue to oppose negativism even more resolutely and, at the same time, should not forget the emerging models and new factors. The press must conduct a propaganda campaign to broadly disseminate new factors so everyone can be aware of them and act accordingly. Opposition must go along with construction.

He said: You all know that at present the struggle on the ideological battlefront in our country holds special significance. Since socialist countries began facing a comprehensive and serious crisis, international hostile forces have considered our country a major target of their opposition and attack. They have intensively carried out their peaceful evolution scheme through very insidious economic, political, ideological, and cultural maneuvers. Together with the reactionary Vietnamese in exile, they have introduced into our country via radio, the press, letters, and leaflets many propaganda campaigns aimed at smearing our party, state, and socialist regime. They demand political pluralism and opposition parties. They incite bad elements and dissatisfied and opportunistic people to rise up. They deceive the credulous masses and separate the people from the party.

Reactionaries of all hues who are still living in the country are plotting to rally forces to oppose the party and the state. Their insidious tricks are to incite the people through demagogy, to take advantage of the policies of our party and state on renovation, democratization, and anti-negative struggle. This is so they can carry out their dark scheme of wiping out party leadership and overthrowing the socialist regime. Regrettably, some articles and addresses have recently appeared in the press, on radios, and through recent informational and cultural activities and seminars in our country to brazenly or subtly negate party leadership and the achievements in socialist construction, reject Marxism-Leninism, and demand extreme democracy, seriously violating party discipline and state law.

Through the press, radio, and television, some people have taken advantage of the people's tribune, fraudulently claiming to be the people's voice, in order to propagate articles carrying wrongful viewpoints or instigative contents to oppose the party and the state. Among these people are those who previously committed mistakes and were disciplined. Biding their time for long, now thinking the time has arrived, they hurriedly jumped out to lecture noxious ideas and viewpoints that have already been condemned by our society.

Chiming in in this chorus are also some utopian or opportunistic people. Our journalists—especially editors-in-chief, editors, and news reporters—must be alert and vigilant to avoid being lured into these activities and must also prevent such actions. We have not mentioned that in some localities, under the disguise of supplements for internal circulation, articles have been printed and passed hand to hand to propagate erroneous viewpoints against the party and the regime.

Realities of renovation in our country over the past three years have shed more light on a major lesson, that is, we must keep our society politically stable in order to build and develop the economy, culture, and social life. Political reforms must be carried out gradually and firmly in order to aid social and economic development. Our journalists' social reponsibility is to support that correct orientation. The enemy wishes nothing but upheavals inside our party and society so that they can make manifest their wicked scheme of fishing in troubled waters.

In the present complicated situation, both nationally and internationally, I would like to suggest that our mass media further promote the ideological task and militancy on this battlefront. We need more and better articles on specific topics, articles with greater combativeness and incisiveness in order to lay bare in time all distortions and reject all erroneous viewpoints wherever they come from, and persuasively defend the party's policies and viewpoints and strengthen the people's confidence in renovation and socialist construction.

As you all know, President Ho Chi Minh is the one who gave birth to the Vietnamese revolutionary press. As a great journalist, Uncle Ho always regarded press activities as revolutionary work, press articles as a revolutionary appeal, and press personnel as revolutionary cadres. The arguments found in the many press articles written by Uncle Ho are simple but sharp. Though not ladden with rhetoric, these articles produced a strong impact. We should strive to learn from him in this regard.

There has been a general concern as to how to increase public interest for each newspaper and each radio or television program. This concern is legitimate because, for newspapers and magazines, interest attraction will help increase the number of their issues in circulation and the accumulation of their profits and the compensation for their expenses. The problem is how to achieve this aim. Naturally, we should improve the content and the format of newspapers, trying to write more tastefully in order to please the legitimate demands of readers. A newspaper must also have a pleasant look and its printing must be clear. Worthy of blame is that certain newspapers tend to increase their attraction by using a different, unhealthy way. For instance, they have attracted readers with love and sex stories. They have presented these stories in a sensual fashion that stirs up curiosity and sexual desires.

In order to continue to renovate the press and enable our contemporary press to worthily live up to its fine tradition as a revolutionary press, we must, as a basic task, constantly care for and cultivate the contingent of press workers. This contingent must not only be sufficient in number but also strong in quality and must have an ever larger number of outstanding, authoritative, and prestigious journalists. The quality of a journalist involves many aspects, ranging from his general knowledge to his professional skills, his morality, personality, and political quality, and his ability to promptly and sensibly grasp the situation and correctly arrange his ideas.

I would like to point out here that with their important role of guiding public opinion and making their influence felt daily and widely by people of various strata, journalists must first set good examples in terms of political quality. This is also the heartfelt advice of Uncle Ho for journalists. He said: All press workers—writers, printing specialists, editors, publishers, and others—must have a firm political stance. Political stance must come first. Only with a correct political line can we carry out other activities properly. I think that a correct political line will help decide various fundamental questions encountered by journalists such as what to write, to whom to write, and how to write to most benefit the revolutionary cause. They must maintain a firm stance in the face of complicated political changes, be able to anticipate the developments of various events, etc. Of course, to become a good journalist, one should have his political factor linked with his professional factor. The morality of a journalist is also not less important.

The comrade general secretary then emphatically discussed the importance of fidelity for journalists and the need for them to surge forward to improve their knowledge in order to suit the new situation. He said:

Finally, I would like to further speak about party leadership and state managment over the press. It has been affirmed that the press is placed under the party leadership. This means the press must operate according to party lines and concepts. The party must create conditions for the press to firmly grasp party policies and lines in each period of time, train the contingent of key press cadres, and control the activities of the press from a political and ideological angle. This is to commend and promote those aspects which are good and to draw on experience and address irregularities. This is a matter of principle.

However, I know that the relations between the party committee echelons and the press in some localities and at certain central-level public organs are not really good. There have been cases where party commitee echelons showed no concern for the press, for they have assigned work to the press on a blank check fashion. Whenever there were any irregularities among the press, the party committee echelons concerned could only offer criticism without giving any close and sincere assistance. There have also been cases where party committee echelons interfered too deeply in the work of the press. A number of leading comrades of various branches, sectors, mass organizations, units, and parent organs of various newspapers and radio stations have relaxed their leadership and guidance. On the press' side, there is also a lack of efforts to seek leadership assistance from party committee echelons and responsible organs. Even worse, there has emerged a tendency to see the press as independent from party leadership.

All these irregularities committed by both sides must be quickly overcome. If there are differing views over the handling of any specific problems, the best way is to listen to and discuss each other's views in the spirit of respect for reason and fact and in a way beneficial to the revolution. In dealing with complex issues, at times we have to wait for realities to provide gradually accurate data allowing us to arrive at conclusions.

Regarding those important issues related to national secrets and security, the press must necessarily comply with the guidance of party committees and government agencies. The state function is to managerially control the activities of mass media. I suggest that state agencies from the central down to local levels intensify their control role and not loosen it as they did before. We should act to promptly overcome the situation of unlicensed or improperly licensed publications, which defeat the purpose and goal of journals, propagate systematically erroneous ideas and viewpoints, and so forth.

The whistle of management agencies must be blown at the right moment and at the right place. Good newspapers must be commended while those who do wrong must be criticized and properly dealt with. Only by doing so can we restore order and discipline on the battlefront of information.

Dear comrades: The few suggestions I have made are for you to reflect upon. The party and state rely on the contingent of press workers. It is hoped that our press will continue to renovate itself in order to promote even more vigorously its positive role in the process of renovation of the entire nation. It is certain the traditions of the Vietnamese revolutionary press founded by President Ho Chi Minh will be continually preserved and constantly developed by the present generation of Vietnamese press workers, who will remain worthy of the confidence of our party, state, and people.

I wish you all success!

Philippine Foreign Affairs Official Visits

OW1406131290 Hanoi VNA in English 0710 GMT 14 Jun 90

[Text] Hanoi VNA June 14—Romualdo Ong, director general of the Asia-Pacific Division of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, paid a four-day visit to Vietnam.

While here from June 10-13, he paid tribute to president's home and office and the Ho Chi Minh Museum.

He was received by Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Vu Khoan. The two sides exchanged views on measures to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between the two countries and on the latest regional development of mutual concern. They also dealt with an overall programme of actions aimed at finding out a stable and long-term solution to the refugee problem, a solution acceptable to all parties concerned.

Vice Minister of Commerce Le Van Triet and Vice-Chairman of the State Commission for Cooperation and Investment Nguyen Mai held talks with the Philippine diplomat on the expansion of commercial cooperation between the two countries.

Fiji

Rabuka Urges Government To Protect Economy

BK1506081590 Melbourne Overseas Service in English 0500 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] The commander of Fiji's military forces, Major General Sitiveni Rabuka, has called on the post-coup interim government to place curbs on trade unions, political parties, and individuals, who display intentions of destabilizing Fiji's economy. The FIJI TIMES newspaper says he made the call while addressing members of the Army auxiliary unit in Suva.

Radio Australia's South Pacific correspondent Jemimah Gareth says the general's comments come as Fiji's sugar unions prepare to boycott this year's harvest in protest against the new sugar master award. General Rabuka also called on his men to be ready to support the government if the harvest boycott went ahead. Yesterday, Fiji's Sugar Tribunal postpone the beginning of the crushing season until 3 July.

The Fiji Sugar Commission is holding its first day of talks with the government-appointed Cane Growers Council, in an effort to find a solution to the dispute. The protest is being led by the National Farmers Union, which said it would only harvest the cane under the old award.

New Zealand

Palmer, New French Envoy Discuss Nuclear Tests

BK1506012090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0046 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Wellington, June 15 (AFP)—The new French ambassador to Wellington, Gabriel de Bellescize, had his first meeting with Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer here Friday [15 June] and was told of the New Zealand Government's opposition to nuclear tests in the South Pacific.

Mr. Palmer said he had told Mr. de Bellescize that relations between the two countries would never be good while the issue of French nuclear testing stood between them. "I made sure the ambassador was fully aware of the repugnance with which all New Zealanders view the testing," Mr. Palmer said in a statement.

"It was important that he should hear this message from me personally, given its importance to the New Zealand Government and people and the negative impact it has on our relations with France.

"I asked the ambassador to convey to his government this and all the other reasons why we strongly believe France should scrap its testing policy," he said.

Mr. de Bellescize made no immediate comment on the meeting.

Vanuatu

Minister Denies U.S. Drug Laundering Claim

BK1606005090 Hong Kong AFP in English 2054 GMT 15 Jun 90

[Text] Port Vila, June 15 (AFP)—Vanuatu, accused by the United States of laundering drug money, warned foreign criminals Friday [15 June] not to filter funds through its offshore finance industry.

Earlier this year a report by the United States Senate Sub-committee on Narcotics and Terrorism claimed illegal gains were being fed through Vanuatu's tax-free banking industry.

In parliament Friday, Finance Minister Sela Molisa rejected the claim, saying Vanuatu's 20-year-old finance centre had an "excellent record and reputation." The South Pacific republic "does not attract and does not desire or need the proceeds of crime," he said.

"Let me give a warning to those who may be looking for a safe haven for the proceeds of their crimes," Mr. Molisa added. "Your money is neither welcome nor safe in Vanuatu."

"There is no evidence that there is a significant use of Vanuatu for money laundering purposes," Mr. Molisa said.

"Launderers have successfully circumvented the full impact of the U.S. controls on cash transactions," he noted.

Recently, financial institutions operating in Vanuatu, some of them large and respected Australian banks and companies, also rejected Washington's claims.